

WAS:mr

August 23, 1934

W  
E ag

995-2

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. EDWARDS.

Transmitted herewith is a bank robbery -  
modus operandi report relative to the robbery of the  
Peoples Savings Bank, Grand Haven, Michigan.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,  
Director.

Enclosure 502060

mg  
ag  
ig  
mf

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED

91-57-1

DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION	
AUG 24 1934 P.M.	
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
	FILE

FILES SECTION  
MAILED  
AUG 25 1934  
DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

was E

Robbery Media Operands Report

Date of robbery and time August 18, 1934, 2:45 p.m.

M. O. # \_\_\_\_\_

Name and location of bank Peoples Savings Bank, Grand Haven, Michigan.

Amount of loss Approximately \$20,000

Characteristic Synopsis

1. Gang Description. Six white men, one identified as Theodore Bents and one identified as Earl Doyle, now serving a life sentence in the Michigan State Prison. Theodore Bents states that the robbers were Homer Van Meter, Edward Bents, "Baby Face" Nelson, Chuck Connors, Earl Doyle and Ralph or Joe Mongo.

2. Style and Approach. One man stayed in car in front of bank. One man guarded rear door. Four men went into bank.

3. Weapons. Revolvers.

4. Treatment of Employees and Patrons. Employees were lined up.

5. Transportation and Getaway. Alarm given by citizen who saw robbery. Driver of bandit car drove away. Other bandits took employees in front of bank as shields. They stole the car which they abandoned several miles out of town and confiscated a Chrysler sedan which was abandoned at Hudson, Michigan, where they confiscated a Ford sedan which was later found abandoned near the Indiana State Line. A Buick sedan which the robbers originally intended to use was found abandoned eight miles from Grand Haven, Michigan.

6. Other Details. Contained in report of Special Agent R. B. Donaldson, Detroit, Michigan, August 17, 1934 in the case entitled EDWARD WILHELM BENTZ with aliases, FUGITIVE, et al; BANK ROBBERY, same being serial 99 of Division file 91-1.

Signature of Reporting Agent

91-57-1

Mr. Nathan.....  
 Mr. Tolson.....  
 Mr. Clegg.....  
 Mr. Baughman.....  
 Chief Clerk.....  
 Mr. Coffey.....  
 Mr. Cowley.....  
 Mr. Edwards.....  
 Mr. Egan.....  
 Mr. Harbo.....  
 Mr. Keith.....  
 Mr. Lester.....  
 Mr. Quinn.....  
 Mr. Schilder.....  
 Mr. Tamm.....

# **U.S. TO TRY BANK THIEF UNDER NEW LAW OF DEATH**

Grand Haven, Mich., Sept. 3.—[Special.]—Theodore F. Bantz, alias Craig, who was indicted on a charge of robbing the People's Savings bank here, is to be arraigned in the Circuit court next Monday, at which time a date for his trial will be set.

Federal authorities at South Bend, Ind., announced yesterday an intention to indict Bantz for the robbery in June of the Merchants' National bank of South Bend. It is the present intention to try him under a new federal law that makes possible a death penalty for a robbery in which a killing occurs. A warrant for his surrender to the federal authorities has been issued, but it is believed the government will consent to let local authorities try him first.

Rumors that Bantz recently made a confession naming persons who had harbored John Dillinger were received with skepticism by Lawrence De Witt, Grand Haven chief of police.

*File  
W...*

91-57-A Chicago Tribune  
9-4-34

# Life Sentence Given Man in Bank Holdup

By United Press  
GRAND HAVEN, Mich.—Theodore Bents, 36, once a prominent Portland, Me., business man, was on his way to the Marquette State Prison today to serve a life sentence for armed bank robbery.

Tears rolled down Bents's cheeks when a Circuit Court jury yesterday afternoon declared him guilty of participating in the \$14,000 holdup of the Peoples Savings Bank of Grand Haven in August, 1933.

"I never robbed a bank, and some day it will be proven," he cried. "This will be on your conscience for a long time."

Mr. Nathan .....  
Mr. Tolson .....  
Mr. Clegg .....  
Mr. Baughman .....  
Chief Clerk .....  
Mr. Coffey .....  
Mr. Cowley .....  
Mr. Edwards .....  
Mr. Egan .....  
Mr. Harbo .....  
Mr. Keith .....  
Mr. Lester .....  
Mr. Quinn .....  
Mr. Schliker .....  
Mr. Tamm .....

BANK ROBBERY



WASH. NEWS

SEP 26 1934

91-57-A

W.H.

St. Paul Pioneer Press.

SEP 26 1934

**BANK ROBBER GETS LIFE**

Grand Haven, Mich., Sept. 25.—(AP)—Theodore Beniz was convicted by a circuit court jury today on a charge of robbing the Peoples Savings bank of Grand Haven of \$14,000 in August, 1933. Circuit Judge Fred T. Miles immediately sentenced him to life imprisonment in the Michigan branch prison at Marquette.



DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION	
SEP 27 1934	
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE	
ST. PAUL, MINN.	
	FILE

91-57-P

Division of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice  
Post Office Box 812  
Chicago Illinois

April 25, 1935

Director,  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
U. S. Department of Justice  
Pennsylvania Avenue at 9th St., N.W.  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Mr. Kulbar of the Michigan State Police called at this Office today and informed me that he was investigating the Grand Haven, Michigan, bank robbery. He stated that he had received information from Ted Bentz to the effect that Father Coughlan was associated with the individuals who robbed the bank at Grand Haven and he desired to know the address of Mr. Coughlan. The address as it is known to the Chicago Office was furnished to him.

While here he stated that Father Coughlan was at one time reprimanded by his church for his associations with the members of the Touhy gang. He stated that he interviewed Father Coughlan about a year ago about this and Father Coughlan informed him that he had been so reprimanded, but that his associations with the Touhy gang were of a spiritual nature entirely.

This is furnished for the information of the Bureau.

Very truly yours,

*M. H. Purvis*

M. H. PURVIS,  
Special Agent in Charge

MHP:RP

RECORDED

INDEXED

APR 30 1935

91-57-2
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
APR 27 1935
TAMM
TRACY



DEPARTMENT OF POLICE  
**City of Grand Haven**  
**MICHIGAN**

LAWRENCE DEWITT, CHIEF

March 13, 1936.

John Edgar Hoover, Director,  
Federal Bureau of Investigation,  
U.S. Department of Justice,  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

Re: Edward Bentz.

Advised as to apprehension of Edward Bentz  
in Brooklyn, N.Y. by your department to-day, for  
whom we hold warrant on charge of robbing the Peoples  
Savings Bank, this city August 18, 1933.

We would appreciate the opportunity to  
extradite Bentz to the State of Michigan on the bank  
robbery charge in event conviction is not obtainable  
on charge preferred against him.

Thanking you for your co-operation, I am

D/W

Very truly yours,

*Lawrence DeWitt*  
Chief of Police.

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED

MAR 19 1936

91-57-3  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
MAR 16 1936 A. M.  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
TAMM  
BYO

ack  
cc. returned  
3/18/36  
per

PAF:GJ

91-57-3

March 18, 1936.

RECORDED

Mr. Lawrence DeWitt,  
Chief of Police,  
Grand Haven, Michigan.

My dear Chief:

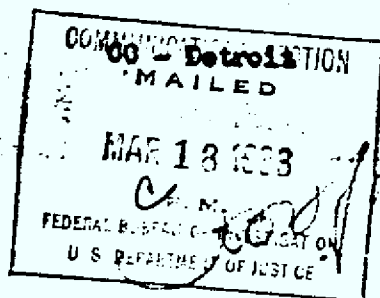
I desire to acknowledge receipt of your letter of March 13, 1936, in which you advise that you hold a warrant charging Edward Bents, who was recently apprehended by representatives of this Bureau, with the robbery of the Peoples Savings Bank of Grand Haven, Michigan on August 18, 1933.

I have also noticed that you would appreciate the opportunity of extraditing Bents to the State of Michigan on the charge of robbing the Peoples Savings Bank in the event he was not convicted on the charges now pending against him. In this connection I would suggest that you file a formal detainer with the United States Marshal at Burlington, Vermont.

Assuring you of my desire to cooperate in all matters of mutual interest, I am

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover,  
Director.



RECEIVED

MAR 18 1936

RECEIVED

RECEIVED



# Sheriff's Office, Ottawa County

SENI. R. ROSEMA, Sheriff  
Grand Haven, Michigan

EDWARD RYCENGA, Under Sheriff  
WILLIAM BOEVE, Deputy Sheriff  
TONY GROENEVELD, Deputy Sheriff

March 14, 1936

Hon. John Edgar Hoover, Director,  
Federal Bureau of Investigation,  
U.S. Department of Justice.

In re : EDWARD BENTZ.

Hon. Sir :

I wish to congratulate you and your department on the recent capture of Edward Bentz.

From the minor details of which we have received, I understand that he is to be turned over to answer to the robbery of the Caldonia National Bank at Rutland, Vermont on which charge he was indicted by a Federal Grand Jury.

The Chief of Police of this City, ~~Lawrence DeWitt~~ and myself have been hopeful of his capture for some time. We hold a warrant for Edward Bentz for robbery of the Peoples Saving Bank, Grand Haven, Michigan on August 18, 1933 as shown by the Circular enclosed. We have a very good case on Edward Bentz and feel that we could put him away on a life sentence if it were possible that he would be turned over on our charge.

We were successful in convicting Earl Doyle and Theodore Bentz, brother of Edward Bentz, as participants on the same robbery as quoted. Both are now serving a life sentence at the Branch Prison at Marquette, Michigan.

RECORDED & INDEXED

91-57-4

Inasmuch as I feel that your department will do its utmost to render to him his due reward, I cannot help but feel that by placing our case before you, we will receive an opportunity to

ack 3/19/36- P67  
cc - Detroit

TAKEN TWO

MAR 23 1936

RECORDED COPY FILED IN 91-1

# Sheriff's Office, Ottawa County

BENJ. H. ROSEMA, Sheriff  
Grand Haven, Michigan

EDWARD RYCENGA, Under Sheriff  
WILLIAM BOEVE, Deputy Sheriff  
TONY GROENEVELD, Deputy Sheriff

-2-

Hon. John Edgar Hoover, Director

In re: Edward Bentz, Cont.

extradite him if at all possible.

May I hear from you at your earliest convenience as to what data and evidence has been compiled against him by your department.

Sincerely yours,

*Benjamin H. Rosema*

Benjamin H. Rosema, Sheriff

BHR/m

10

PEF:VTL  
91-574

March 19, 1936.

RECORDED

Mr. Benjamin H. Rosena,  
Sheriff,  
Grand Haven, Michigan.

My dear Sheriff:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated March 14, 1936, in which you advise that you hold a warrant for Edward Bents, who was recently apprehended by Special Agents of this Bureau, charging him with the robbery of the Peoples Saving Bank, Grand Haven, Michigan.

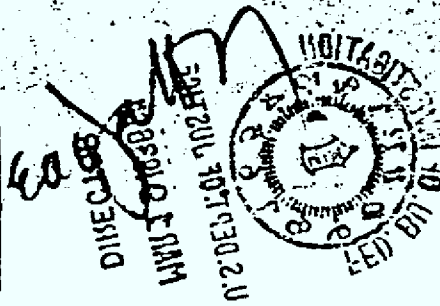
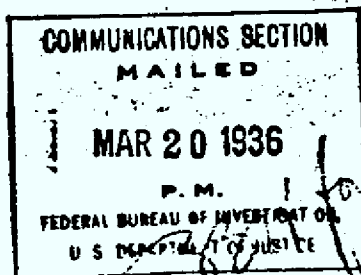
Your request for information as to the data and evidence which has been compiled against Bents has been noted. For your information the investigation of the matters in which Bents was involved has not as yet been completed by this Bureau. In connection with your request that you be given an opportunity to extradite Bents, it is suggested that you file a formal detainer with the United States Marshal at Burlington, Vermont.

Assuring you of my desire to cooperate with law enforcement agencies in matters of mutual interest at all times, I am

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover,  
Director.

cc-Detroit



FA

**DIEKEMA, CROSS & TEN CATE**

ATTORNEYS AT LAW  
HOLLAND, MICHIGAN

BERRY J. DIEKEMA  
1889-1930  
ORIN S. CROSS  
DANIEL TEN CATE  
VERNON S. TEN CATE

March 30, 1936

U.S. Department of Investigation  
Washington, D.C.

Gentlemen:

We are acting as attorneys for Mr. Theodore (Bentz) Craig, No. 5209, Marquette State Prison, Marquette, Michigan, who was sentenced from Grand Haven for a bank robbery job on August 18, 1933. Mr. Craig claims it is a clear case of mistaken identity, that he had nothing to do with the job and is anxious to have the men apprehended who actually committed the job.

Mr. Edward W. Bentz, who was also connected with the Grand Haven job, was sentenced last Thursday to the Federal Prison at Atlanta, Georgia, for a bank job in Burlington, Vermont. There is no question but that Edward W. Bentz and one Earle Doyle participated in the Grand Haven job. Doyle is now serving time for the same at Marquette, Michigan. Both Craig and Doyle state positively that Craig had nothing to do with the Grand Haven job, and we expect to procure a statement from Edward W. Bentz to the same effect.

Mr. Craig assures us that one Bernard Phillips is the man who actually assisted in robbing the bank and the man who the witnesses described, but by mistake picked Craig as being Phillips because of his resemblance. We are trying to locate Phillips and wish you would send us a photograph of him. His description is as follows:

Alias "Big Phil", five feet, ten inches in height, dark brown hair; blue eyes; 190 to 200 pounds in weight; husky build; dresses like ordinary business man; medium nose; 29 to 34 years in age; believed to have slight scar on face near mouth.

Habits: Smokes cigarettes, drinks, like to play golf, lives in apartments, drives a chevrolet or buick car, usually a new one, or cars of like make; travels a great deal with women. Is believed to be around New York at present.

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED

APR 11 1936

91-57-50  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

APR 1 1936 P. M.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

TAMM TWO FILE 12

*People Saving Bank Grand Haven, Mich.*

U.S. Department of Investigation #2

Criminal Record: Served time in Leavenworth Prison, was a cellmate of Earl Doyle at that prison. He met and associated two months with Earl Doyle before the Grand Haven Bank was robbed. Further description can be obtained from the authorities at the above named prison. He is now wanted several places.

If we can get any definite information that will be of service to you, we shall be glad to furnish you with the same. Awaiting your reply, we are

Very truly yours,

DIEKEMA, CROSS & TEN CATE

By *OSC*

C/G

JAS:AF  
91-57-5

April 7, 1936

RECORDED

Lickens, Cross and Ten Cate,  
Attorneys at Law,  
Holland, Michigan.

Gentlemen:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of March 30, 1936, in which you advise that you are acting as attorneys for Mr. Theodore (Bents) Craig, Number 6209, Marquette State Prison, Marquette, Michigan.

I have noted the information contained in your letter and regret to advise you that I am prevented by legislative enactment from furnishing photographs or criminal records to any persons other than those connected with law-enforcement agencies.

I suggest that a photograph of Bernard Phillips might be obtained from some institution in which he has been confined, or from the Police Department of some city where he has been arrested.

I regret that I cannot be of service to you in this matter.

Very truly yours,

CC\*Detroit

John Edgar Hoover,  
Director.

af

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION MAILED APR - 3 1936 P. M. FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
--

RECEIVED

APR 10 1936

U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

*[Handwritten signature]*



JOHN EDGAR HOOVER  
DIRECTOR

PEF:CDW

# Federal Bureau of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice

Washington, D. C.

April 4, 1936.

Mr. Nathan	.....
Mr. Tolson	.....
Mr. Baughman	.....
Chief Clerk	.....
Mr. Clegg	.....
Mr. Coffey	.....
Mr. Edwards	.....
Mr. Egan	.....
Mr. Foxworth	.....
Mr. Harbo	.....
Mr. Joseph	.....
Mr. Keith	.....
Mr. Lester	.....
Mr. Quinn	.....
Mr. Schilder	.....
Mr. Tamm	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Miss Gandy	.....

Time - 4:35 P.M.

## MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

Re: Edward Wilhelm Bents.

I telephoned SAC Conroy at the Atlanta Office with reference to my previous telephonic conversation with him concerning the Michigan State Trooper who is coming down there for the purpose of interviewing Bents at the penitentiary relative to the robbery of the bank at Grand Haven, Michigan. I told Mr. Conroy upon discussing this matter with you, you had suggested that Mr. Conroy arrange with the warden of the penitentiary, diplomatically of course, whereby one of our Agents could be present during the interview which this Michigan State Trooper has with Bents.

I further told Mr. Conroy you suggested arrangements also diplomatically be made with the warden of the penitentiary whereby no one will be permitted to interview Bents without notice thereof being previously given to the Atlanta Office.

Mr. Conroy said that the warden at the penitentiary is very cooperative and amenable to suggestions, and he does not anticipate any difficulty at all in connection with these two matters.

Respectfully,

P. E. FOXWORTH.

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED

APR 8 1936

91-57-6	
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
APR 7 1936 P. M.	
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE	
TAMM	ONE

ag  
X

Federal Bureau of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice

501 Healey Building,

Atlanta, Georgia,

April 7, 1936.

KEC:ME

91-5

AD

Director,  
Federal Bureau of Investigation,  
Washington, D. C.

8

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to letter from the Detroit Office to the Atlanta Office dated April 2, 1936, entitled, EDWARD WILHELM BENTZ, with aliases, et al., BANK ROBBERY, which set forth that Sergeant P. L. Hutson of the Michigan State Police was leaving for Atlanta, Georgia, for the purpose of interviewing Edward Wilhelm Bentz at the United States Penitentiary, Atlanta, on April 6, 1936, in connection with the robbery of a bank at Grand Haven, Michigan, a few years ago.

On April 4, 1936, a long distance telephone call was received from Mr. Foxworth at the Bureau in connection with reference letter. Mr. Foxworth suggested that the Atlanta Office tactfully arrange to have a Special Agent of the Bureau present when Bentz was being interviewed by Sergeant Hutson. He further suggested that arrangements be made, if possible, whereby Bentz should not be interviewed by any peace officers unless an Agent of the Atlanta Office was present. Shortly after the telephone conversation with Mr. Foxworth, arrangements were made with Warden A. C. Aderhold of the United States Penitentiary, whereby no peace officer is to interview Bentz unless an Agent of the Atlanta Bureau Office is present. This arrangement does not include relatives. In the event the Bureau desires these additional precautions be taken, it is requested that the Atlanta Office be advised immediately.

Mr. Foxworth also suggested in another telephone conversation that Bentz, when being interviewed by the Michigan officers, might desire to discuss only the robbery of the Grand Haven, Michigan bank. I proceeded to the Penitentiary with Special Agent W. M. Bott where Bentz was personally interviewed. Bentz stated that he would discuss the Grand Haven bank robbery with the Michigan officers because his brother, Ted Bentz, had been convicted of the robbery of that bank. At that time Ed Bentz intimated that Ted Bentz was

COPIES DESTROYED

243 APR 4 1967

RECORDED

&

INDEXED

APR 27 1936

91-58-7
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
APR 9 1936 A.M.
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

17

not an active participant in that bank robbery and that by discussing the matter with the Michigan officers he might be able to clear his brother.

Yesterday morning, April 6, 1936, Sergeant P. L. Hutson of the Detective Division, Michigan State Police, East Lansing, Michigan, accompanied by Chief of Police Lawrence DeWitt of Grand Haven, Michigan, called at this office, at the same time stating that Special Agent in Charge H. H. Reinecke of the Detroit Office had suggested that they call at this office where they would receive the utmost cooperation. They were advised that they were expected, and due to the fact that Special Agent W. M. Bott of this office was very familiar with the workings of the penitentiary and was personally acquainted with Ed Bentz, that arrangements had already been effected whereby Agent Bott would conduct them to the penitentiary and see that every courtesy was extended to them.

Agent Bott accompanied Sergeant Hutson and Chief of Police DeWitt to the penitentiary on two visits yesterday morning and afternoon, April 6, and on another visit this morning, April 7, 1936. He stayed with the officers constantly while they were interviewing Bentz and made notes on the information conveyed by Bentz. These notes are being assembled and a report will be rendered in the immediate future setting forth detailed information given by Bentz.

The information conveyed by Ed Bentz related practically in its entirety to the robbery of the Peoples Savings Bank, Grand Haven, Michigan, during August, 1933, prior to the passage of the National Bank Robbery Statutes. Bentz gave a written statement in his own handwriting, admitting participation in that bank robbery. He enumerated the other active participants in the robbery. It was noticeable that the name of his brother, Ted Bentz, is omitted in the statement as an active participant. A copy of this statement was secured and will be incorporated into Agent Bott's report.

After securing the statement regarding the Grand Haven bank robbery, the Michigan officers started questioning Bentz regarding other bank robberies in Michigan which had occurred prior to the Grand Haven bank robbery. Agent Bott,

however, holding in mind the Bureau's suggestions, tactfully and adroitly and without causing any ill feeling, brought the interview to an end. These officers, however, during the general conversation on the day previous, had secured from Bentz the names of the participants in five other bank robberies in the State of Michigan. Bentz, however, would not discuss the details of those other robberies, at the same time stating that he did not participate in those bank robberies. Incidentally, during the interview with Ed Bentz at the penitentiary, on occasions Bentz made statements to the effect that he had furnished certain information to the Agents of the Bureau at New York City and elsewhere. This information was not at hand at the Atlanta Office. I am inclined to believe that it should be available for purposes of reference. In view of these circumstances, should the Bureau deem same appropriate, it is suggested that complete reports, memorandums and letters regarding all interviews with Bentz should be transmitted to the Atlanta Office for study before any further interviews of consequence be held with Bentz. The Agents of the office then will be in a position to interrogate Bentz in more detailed manner.

Previous  
Covered  
C.W.

Trusting that this matter has been handled to the satisfaction of the Bureau, I am

Very truly yours,



E. E. CONROY,  
Special Agent in Charge.

cc Detroit  
New York  
Boston

**Federal Bureau of Investigation**

**U. S. Department of Justice**

501 Healey Building  
Atlanta, Georgia

EEC:rd  
91-49

April 8, 1936

Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

Re: EDWARD WILHELM BENTZ, with aliases,  
et al. Peoples Savings Bank,  
Grand Haven, Michigan.  
BANK ROBBERY

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to the report of Special Agent W. M. Bott, Atlanta, Georgia, dated April 8, 1936.

The Bureau's attention is specifically directed to the threats made to Bentz and the promises given him in connection with a statement received from Bentz regarding the robbery of the Peoples Savings Bank at Grand Haven, Michigan. Agent Bott was merely an observer at the time the interview took place. I desire to call the Bureau's attention, however, to the fact that any Agent of the Bureau being a witness to this type of questioning is placed in a rather delicate position. Naturally, at some future time he may be called upon as a witness, which would result in possible embarrassment to the Bureau.

I have in mind particularly at the present time, that in the not far distant future other local State, County and City officers may come to Atlanta to interview Bentz. Upon instructions of the Bureau, arrangements have been made at the United States Penitentiary at Atlanta for an Agent of the Bureau to be present at all such interviews. It is my general impression that Bentz in the future will refuse to give statements to any other officers except employees of the Bureau. His apparent reason for giving the statement in this particular case was in order to clear his brother Ted Bentz of being an active participant in this bank robbery, at the time he is given a new trial, which I understand is to take place sometime soon.

RECORDED

I would appreciate receiving any advice which the Bureau may desire to give regarding this particular situation. Should any other peace officers arrive in Atlanta to interview Bentz, I will call the Bureau on the telephone, before allowing an Agent to be present at any additional interviews with Edward Bentz.

Very truly yours,

E. E. CONROY  
Special Agent in Charge

APR 25 1936

TWO FILE

*Recd Atlanta  
4/24/36  
JEC*

PEF:AEK

91-57 -3

RECORDED

April 22, 1936

Special Agent in Charge,  
Atlanta, Georgia.

Re: EDWARD WILHELM BENTZ, with  
aliases; ET AL;  
Peoples Savings Bank,  
Grand Haven, Michigan;  
BANK ROBBERY.

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your letter of April 8, 1936, in which you called to the Bureau's attention the threats and promises which were made to subject Bents at the time he was interviewed by officials from Grand Haven, Michigan, concerning the robbery of the Peoples Savings Bank of that city.

You have previously been requested to make such arrangements as necessary in order to be assured that your office would be advised before any person was allowed to interview Bents at the Atlanta Penitentiary. You were also instructed to arrange to have an Agent present during each such interview. The Agent who is present during these interviews should arrange to indicate to Bents that the Bureau, because an Agent is present during the interview, is not attempting to influence him in making a statement to any other law enforcement agency.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,  
Director.

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
MAILED

APR 23 1936

P. M.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION,  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE



# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **DETROIT**

Atlanta FILE NO. 91-49

rd

REPORT MADE AT <b>ATLANTA</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>4/8/36</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>4/6 &amp; 7/36</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>W. M. BOTT</b>
TITLE <b>EDWARD WILHELM BENTZ, with aliases, et al Peoples Savings Bank, Grand Haven, Michigan</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>BANK ROBBERY</b>

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:** Edward Bentz stated he, Baby Face Nelson, Earl Doyle, "Chuck" Fisher, Tom Murray and a party called "Freddie" robbed the Peoples Savings Bank, Grand Haven, Michigan on 8/18/33; that Eddie LaRue, "Big" Fitzgerald, Robert Ripley, Homer Wilson and Lee Turner robbed the Holland State Bank, Holland Michigan, during September, 1932 and that Campbell, "Big" Fitzgerald, Robert Ripley, Eddie LaRue, Gus Shaw, Homer Wilson and Jack Pfeifer robbed banks in Albion, Sturgess, Dowagiac and Cadillac, Michigan between 1928 and 1931. Bentz disclosed the location of bonds stolen from Grand Haven bank and buried between New Buffalo, Michigan and Michigan City, Indiana.



**REFERENCE:** Letter from the Detroit office dated 4/2/36.

**DETAILS:** A separate file is being opened by the Atlanta office in instant matter in order to segregate the following information which pertains to the robbery of banks in the State of Michigan prior to September, 1933, from the Caledonia National Bank case.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: 	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES <b>91-57-9</b>	APR 11 1936
COPIES OF THIS REPORT ② - Bureau 2 - Detroit 1 - New York 2 - Boston 1 - Chicago 3 - Atlanta		<b>APR 10 A.M.</b> 	<b>APR 27 1936</b>

**COPIES DESTROYED**

**243 APR 25 1936**

**FUG SUP**

Atlanta 91-49

DETAILS:

Sergeant P. L. Hutson, Detective Bureau, Michigan State Police, East Lansing, Michigan, Chief of Police Lawrence DeWitt, of Grand Haven, Michigan, and this Agent interviewed Edward Wilhelm Bentz, #48025, at the United States Penitentiary, Atlanta. Sergeant Hutson, who conducted the interrogation of Bentz, informed Bentz that the State Authorities of Michigan possessed sufficient evidence to definitely involve him in the robbery of the Peoples Savings Bank of Grand Haven, Michigan on August 18, 1933. Sergeant Hutson advised Bentz that if he would furnish detailed information concerning his participation in the robbery of the Grand Haven Bank and disclose the identity of his associates, the State of Michigan would decline to prosecute him and that the information furnished by him would never be used in Court against him, but that if he refused to make the desired disclosures, the Attorney General of the State of Michigan would request the Attorney General of the United States to permit Bentz to be removed from the Atlanta Penitentiary to Grand Haven, Michigan, for trial in the State Courts and that a Grand Haven jury would not require more than five minutes to convict Bentz on the evidence already accumulated.

Bentz replied that he had already made a lengthy statement to the Agents of the New York Bureau office; that he has confidence in the Agents of the Bureau and feels certain that the information which he furnished would be treated confidentially by the Bureau and would not be broadcast in the newspapers. Sgt. Hutson immediately assured Bentz that the information which he might disclose during the present interview would be treated confidentially by the State Authorities in Michigan and that not one word would find its way to the newspapers.

Upon being thus assured Bentz stated that neither he nor his brother Ted, who is at present serving a life sentence in the Michigan State Penitentiary at Marquette, Michigan, for participation in the robbery of the Grand Haven bank, had anything to do with the actual robbery of this bank; that about Decoration Day of 1933, informant moved into a cottage on the shores of Lake Michigan at Long Beach, Indiana; that during June and July of the same year, Baby Face Nelson, Tom Carroll, Homer Van Meter, Earl Doyle, "Chuck" Fisher and a fellow called "Freddie", who had two fingers of his right hand amputated and who was later found murdered in Melrose Park, Illinois, moved into cottages at Long Beach; that Nelson approached informant concerning a bank in that vicinity which would be reasonably safe and profitable to rob; that informant, who had "cashed" the Peoples Savings Bank of Grand Haven, Michigan the year before, advised Nelson that this bank would probably be what he wanted.

Atlanta 91-49

Continuing, Bentz stated that Nelson later informed him that he, Nelson, Carroll, Van Meter, Doyle, Fisher and "Freddie" decided to rob the Peoples Savings Bank and that they wanted informant to assist them in their preparations. Bentz admitted he furnished them a set of Indiana license plates which had been issued to him under the name of Renier, with the understanding that these plates were not to be used in the actual robbery. Informant admitted he loaned Nelson a machine gun, a rifle and the tacks to prevent pursuit; that he again "cashed" the bank in Grand Haven for them and also prepared the get-away truck but that he did not participate in the actual robbery of this bank.

Bentz stated that on the day following the robbery of the Peoples Savings Bank at Grand Haven, Michigan, Nelson came to him with about \$20,000 worth of Travellers Cheques and bonds; that informant purchased this loot from Nelson for \$5,000 less \$300, the latter amount being the allowance which Nelson made to compensate informant for the loss of informant's machine gun, which had been abandoned during the robbery. With regard to the disposition of the bonds and Travellers Cheques which he had acquired from Nelson, Bentz stated he turned the Cheques over to his brother Ted, who had agreed to dispose of them and who actually did dispose of them both in this country and in England.

Concerning his brother Ted, Bentz stated Ted was never involved in a bank robbery; that Ted lacked the courage and was too "weak" to enter a bank "waving a gun"; that Ted was in Long Beach, Indiana only two hours during the entire Summer of 1933; that Ted met two members of Nelson's gang during this short visit but that Ted did not receive any information concerning the proposed robbery of the Grand Haven bank and certainly was not requested to participate in the robbery of this bank because no intelligent bank robber would enlist an inexperienced man like Ted. Informant further stated that all the evidence presented against Ted in his recent trial at Grand Haven, Michigan consisted solely of a mistaken identification and the fact that Ted had disposed of the Travellers Cheques which had been stolen from this bank.

Continuing, Bentz stated that the bonds which he purchased from Nelson and which were part of the loot of the Peoples Savings Bank, were buried by informant and that no one but informant knows the exact spot in which these bonds were hidden. Asked to furnish a description of the place where these bonds were buried, Bentz stated that "if you drive from New Buffalo, Michigan toward Michigan City, Indiana over highway #12, you'll have to pass highway #20, which runs into highway #12 and just about 400 feet before reaching the inter-

Atlanta 91-49

section of these highways you turn right on to a gravel or macadam road which immediately crosses the double tracks of the Michigan Central Railroad." He stated when these railroad tracks are crossed, tennis courts can be seen on the left hand side of this gravel road, and a riding academy in the distance on the right side of the road; that about 75 feet beyond the railroad tracks is a forest which is located on the right hand side of the gravel road; that along the near edge of these woods is a little used trail or road; that if you turn right on to this trail and continue for about 25 feet, you will notice a forked tree which is along the edge of the woods and which is sufficiently unusual in shape to attract attention; that the fork of this tree starts approximately two feet from the ground; that ten feet southwest from the base of this tree and buried two feet underground are two jars containing the bonds taken from the Peoples Savings Bank of Grand Haven.

Regarding the report of the Holland State Bank of Holland, Michigan on September 29, 1932, Bentz stated he had nothing whatsoever to do with this job but that he was certain of the identity of the robbers of this bank because he had talked to them at a later date and had learned through other sources of the amount of the loot; that Eddie LaRue, "Big" Fitzgerald, Robert Ripley, Homer Wilson and Lee Turner composed the gang that robbed the Holland Bank but that informant knows little or nothing concerning the details of the robbery itself or the disposition of the loot.

When questioned concerning the robbery of banks in Albion, Sturgess, Dowagiac and Cadillac, Michigan, Bentz advised he did not participate or have anything to do with these robberies; that because of having served a sentence in the Michigan State Penitentiary at Jackson, he had deliberately avoided operations in the State of Michigan; that the gang which committed the above robbery had been made up of a robber whose last name was Campbell and who was killed at Red Wing, Minnesota in 1932, "Big" Fitzgerald, Robert Ripley, Eddie LaRue, Gus Shaw, who was later taken for a ride in Chicago, Homer Wilson and Jack Pfeifer. Bentz would not disclose any further information concerning the robbery of the banks in these four cities but when asked for information concerning Homer Wilson, Bentz stated he knows nothing concerning Wilson except that Wilson was once arrested by the Police Department of Seattle, Washington as a suspect in a train robbery case but was immediately released.

Regarding the Grand Haven robbery, Bentz stated that Father Coughlin, who was residing in Michigan City, Indiana during the summer of 1933, assisted Baby Face Nelson in his preparation for this robbery and that the Buick automobile which was used in the Grand Haven robbery was brought from Chicago to Michigan City and stored in Father Coughlin's garage until it was needed for the robbery.



Atlanta 91-49

Bentz was questioned concerning his outlet for the disposition of bonds and securities which he had obtained as a result of his bank robbing activities and stated that Connelly before his death handled at least a million dollars worth of bonds and securities for informant.

Following the above interview Sergeant Hutson informed Bentz that his statement concerning the identity of the robbers who held up the Grand Haven bank was untrue, and that the Michigan State Police possessed positive proof that he had participated in the actual robbery of this bank. Mr. Hutson spent considerable time attempting to persuade Bentz to admit his participation in this matter but Bentz declined to make any further admissions.

On the morning of April 7, 1936, Bentz was re-interviewed by Sgt. Hutson, Chief of Police DeWitt and the writer being present. Sgt. Hutson again advised Bentz that this was his last chance to "come clean"; that if he, Bentz, told the truth concerning the Grand Haven bank robbery, his statements would never be used against him in any court in the State of Michigan and that a detainer would never be filed against him on this particular charge by the State of Michigan but that prosecution would be instituted immediately against him by the State of Michigan if he continued to deny his participation in instant robbery.

Bentz took a pad of paper and wrote the following statement in his own handwriting:

I rented cottage on Lake Mich. in long beach in May 1933 live there until August 19th 1933.

In June 1933 Jimmy Nelson came to see me about different banks and said he has several more men coming over from St. Paul and who would be over in a week or so.

Jimmy & I talked over the situation and decided to wait until the Arrival of the others.

The following week Doyle and Chuck Fisher came over, the first I met them, After talking a few hours they finally agreed to rent cottage next door which at the time was vacant.

After they had settled in cottage Doyle and I went up to Grand Haven, which I had previously seen in 1932, Doyle went into the Bank and looked it over, as I knew the situation, and he came out and said it looked O.K. to him. We stayed in the

Atlanta 91-49

town of Grand Haven that night, I stayed at the "Hotel Ferry" I do not know where Doyle stayed. Next day we started to run the "get away" from the bank. This required about three days. Finally completing same on Hy. #20 in Ohio. We went back to Long beach.

After checking up on Equipment etc we found we needed machine guns etc. I called up "Lebanon Sporting Goods Co." in San Antonio, Tex. and told him I was sending down two men and for him to sell them two machine guns. Nelson and Fisher went down and got them, which required about two weeks.

While they were in Texas, Tom Murray came over from St. Paul and stayed at the cottage next to me. Where Nelson had his wife, Helen & sometimes his Mother.

The Bank at Grand Haven was supposed to be robbed the latter part of July, but was put off, due to the fact that I was busy in another venture. Murray stayed on and during the later part of July & Early August Tommy Carroll and Homer Van Meter, Jack liberty, came there to visit.

About the middle of August, "Father Conklin" brought "Freddie" to Nelson's cottage whom Nelson previously knew when working with the Touhy's.

After considerable talk it was decided I, Nelson, Fisher, Doyle, Murray, "Freddie" were to rob the Bank.

Nelson went to Chicago and got in contact with Jack Liberty and told him to bring out a Buick Automobile, which he did the following day.

The car was put in Conklin's garage "here say" that night by Nelson.

The following day which was the 17th, all the equipment was put in the basement of the Cottage Nelson lived in.

The morning of the 18th the Buick was brought back to the cottage and driven under the house and here loaded with the equipment, tacks, food etc. The priest brought "Freddie" over and we "above name" left for Grand Haven. We drove up on Hy. U.S. 12 and 31. Three miles west of town we turned west and went on a side road and got the car ourselves etc ready. Changed plates and each man put on his equipment, it was decided to let "Freddie" drive, I strongly opposed this for his lack of experience but due to the fact he had several fingers off I consented.



We drove to town and Nelson & I got off on the Street in back of bank, Nelson had one machine gun in a basket. Fisher & Doyle & Murray got off on the corner of 3rd & Franklin immediately in back of the bank, "Fredie" took the car and was supposed to park it along the West Side of the post office. Nelson & I came up from the West on Wash. St. Fisher, & Murray came around the Corner of 3rd to Wash. Nelson & I entered, I immediately went to the Right and br-  
dar all to lay on the floor. Nelson came in back of me. Murray & Fisher stayed in front of the cages, Doyle came to the back door, which I opened. I then took the Cashier to the vault and ordered him to open the safes, which he did. He had just one open when Nelson warned me we had a "rank". I brought the cashier out and after looking out of the window ordered every body out the back. The cashier was ordered out first, then Nelson went out and started shooting with the machine gun and not seeing the car we worked out way to Franklin St. Stopped the first car which came along and ordered the people out. We got in same and left town according to out "get" the best we could remember. As our "get" was fast the Buick auto. Approx. 8 miles north on 31 we seen a car & stopped and changed cars. Then continued on the road, previously run, getting off here & there. North of Adrian we had several flat tires and stopped a Ford with 3 young fellows and took their car, in which we drove to long beach, here the money was divided 6 ways which amounted to about \$60.00 apiece. The securities & Travelers checks were retained by me.

Nelson, Muray & Fisher tried to locate "Fredie" but were unsuccessful, I moved to union pier and met Nelson, Van Meter Murry & Fisher ten days later at the Extreme End of the road running along long Beach. We split here last I seen of any of them.

---

Keep your promise about this being confidential, I will take the stand against any of above if necessary but forget about me.

The original of the above statement was retained by Sergeant Hutson of the Michigan State Police. The word "Rank" which appears in the above statement means "an arrival of police officers" according to Bentz.

Atlanta 91-49

Regarding Tom Murray, whose name appears in the above statement as a participant in the Grand Haven robbery, Bentz stated he had never seen or heard of Murray prior to the Summer of 1933 but that Murray was reported to be the operator of a restaurant in St. Paul, Minnesota.

A rough sketch of the location of the bonds buried by Bentz between New Buffalo, Michigan and Michigan City, Indiana is being attached to the Detroit copies of instant report.

A brief resume of the information set forth in this report immediately after its receipt was communicated by Special Agent in Charge E. E. Conroy, over long distance telephone, to Mr. E. A. Tamm of the Bureau at Washington, D. C., who stated that in view of the fact that the robbery of the Peoples Savings Bank of Grand Haven, Michigan was committed prior to the enactment of the National Bank Robbery statutes, the Bureau did not desire the Detroit office to take any part in the search for the stolen bonds which are alleged to be buried between New Buffalo, Michigan and Michigan City, Indiana.

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE  
OFFICE OF ORIGIN.

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER  
DIRECTOR

PEF:CDW

Federal Bureau of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice

Washington, D. C.

April 4, 1936.

Time - 9:30 A.M.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

Re: Edward Wilhelm Bentz.

Mr. Nathan .....  
Mr. Tolson .....  
Mr. Baughman .....  
Chief Clerk .....  
Mr. Clegg .....  
Mr. Coffey .....  
Mr. Edwards .....  
Mr. Egan .....  
Mr. Foxworth .....  
Mr. Glavin .....  
Mr. Joseph .....  
Mr. Keith .....  
Mr. Lester .....  
Mr. Quinn .....  
Mr. Schilder .....  
Mr. Tamm .....  
Mr. Tracy .....  
Miss Gandy .....

SAC Whitley telephoned me from New York and said that this morning, he received a copy of a letter written by the Detroit Office to the Atlanta Office, stating that Sergeant Hutson of the Michigan State Police, is leaving Detroit on April 5, 1936 for Atlanta, Georgia, for the purpose of interviewing Ed Bentz at the United States Penitentiary at Atlanta, in connection with the robbery of the bank at Grand Haven, Michigan. The letter goes on to state that Sergeant Hutson will contact the Atlanta Office in order that arrangements might be made through that office for the Sergeant to interview Bentz in the penitentiary. The letter continues that although we had previously informed Detroit that we thought it was better for state officers to be discouraged from interviewing Bentz, in view of the relations in Detroit with the Michigan State Police, who are very insistent that they talk with Bentz about the Grand Haven case, all we can do is to cooperate with them.

Mr. Whitley said he can readily understand this situation, despite the fact that Bentz gave us substantially all of the information relative to that particular robbery, which information was furnished to the Detroit Office. However, Mr. Whitley said that this matter is a source of concern for many reasons. He pointed out that if we start promoting or sponsoring or taking out state officials from all over the United States to talk to Bentz in the penitentiary, very quickly we are going to offend Bentz and ruin his excellent cooperation with us. He said that while he hopes there will not be a repetition of such requests, he believes the Atlanta Office should go out to the penitentiary and see Bentz before the Michigan State man arrives, and ask Bentz if it will be all right to bring the Michigan State man out there to talk about the Grand Haven bank robbery. Mr. Whitley said he is sure Bentz will say yes to this request, particularly in view of the fact that his brother, Ted Bentz, is now serving a "bum rap" for this robbery in Michigan. However, our asking him first will certainly put him in a better frame of mind. At the same time, Mr. Whitley said Bentz should be told not to tell the Michigan officer about any case except the Grand Haven robbery. He pointed out that if we do not make this request, and Bentz gets started talking, he will probably tell this Michigan man everything he has told us, which would, of course, be disastrous.

RECORDED & INDEXED

Mr. Whitley said that the Atlanta Agents should be cautioned not to let the prison officials know that Bentz is talking to us. He said that Bentz made this specific request before he left New York. He told the Agents that any time they wanted to know anything, he would be glad to tell them anything that he might know about it; however, he asked that whatever he did, not to let the penitentiary officials know that he is talking to the Agents.

COPIES DESTROYED

243 APR 4 1967

APR 13 1936

FILE

FUG. SUP.

FILE

29

Memo for the Director

-2-

4/4/36

Bentz pointed out that if they knew he was talking to the Agents, they would try to make a stool pigeon out of him in the penitentiary. Bentz said he would certainly not be a stool pigeon inside the walls, because he has to live there a long time.

Mr. Whitley suggested, in which I concur, that the Atlanta Office be contacted right away with reference to the above matter.

Time - 10:00 A.M.

I telephoned SAC Conroy at the Atlanta Office, and while he has not as yet seen the letter from Detroit to which Mr. Whitley referred, I advised him of the facts as contained in the letter as related by Mr. Whitley, and of the views and opinions of Mr. Whitley in the premises. I also pointed out specifically to Mr. Conroy the request of Bentz that the prison officials not be informed that he is talking to us regarding these cases.

Mr. Conroy said that he would personally take care of this matter, and assured me that he would caution Bentz to talk to this Michigan officer about no case but the Grand Haven bank robbery.

Respectfully,

*P. E. Foxworth*  
P. E. FOXWORTH.

Post Office Box 2118  
Detroit - Michigan  
April 16, 1936

Special Agent in Charge  
Chicago, Illinois

Re: EDWARD WILHELM MERTZ with aliases; et al;  
Peoples Savings Bank, Grand Haven, Mich.  
BANK ROBBERY.

Dear Sir:

The Michigan State Police are very much interested in ascertaining the identity of one "Freddie" who is alleged to have participated in the above bank robbery. It is stated that he has two middle fingers missing from his right hand and was formerly a Touhy gangster. It is also reported that he was shot by "Baby Face" Nelson for running away with the automobile from the Grand Haven job. It is thought that perhaps you or some Agents in your office might be aware of the identity of this individual and can furnish a photograph of him for the use of the Michigan State Police.

Will you also please forward a photograph of Homer Wilson, whose name is mentioned in the Bremer kidnaping case, and also confirm my belief that he is now dead.

Very truly yours,

H. H. Reinecke  
Special Agent in Charge

HHR:AM  
91-48

cc-Bureau ✓

RECORDED

&  
INDEXED

APR 21 1936

91-57-11

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

APR 18 1936

FUG. SUP. TWO



DEPARTMENT OF POLICE  
**City of Grand Haven**  
MICHIGAN

LAWRENCE DEWITT, CHIEF

March 26, 1936.

John Edgar Hoover, Director,  
Federal Bureau of Investigation,  
U.S. Department of Justice,  
Washington, D.C.

My dear Chief:

I have been advised of the disposition of the Edward Bentz case at Burlington, Vermont, to the effect he has been sentenced to the U.S. Penitentiary at Atlanta, Ga, for a period of twenty years. May I extend my congratulations to the Department of Justice in the apprehension of Bentz, that again the ends of Justice have been satisfied.

As there are two bandits still unidentified in our bank robbery as of August 18, 1933, I am very much interested to know whether Edward Bentz or Theodore Bentz made any statements in regard to whom the other participants might be in the bank robbery here, to any of your Agents that have questioned them, if so, if you could authorize that information forwarded to this office, such as names of there associates and where photographs could be obtained to assist us in identifying them by the local bank employees.

If any such information is available at the Detroit or Chicago office of the Department of Justice, with your authorization I would appreciate the opportunity to go there and accept such information as might be helpful to us in our investigation.

Thanking you for your co-operation, I am

Sincerely Yours,

RECORDED & INDEXED

91-57-12

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
APR 23 1936 P.M.
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FILE

Chief of Police.

MAY 5 1936

ack. 4-17-36  
cc New York  
"Re" 4-17-36  
Atlanta

D/W

W

32

RECORDED COPY FILED IN 91-1

*Calderon Nat. Bank  
\*Dawson's Vermont  
\*Commonwealth*



CEW:CSH

91-1

April 17, 1936

91-57-12

RECORDED

Mr. Lawrence DeWitt,  
Chief of Police,  
Grand Haven, Michigan.

My dear Chief:

I have your letter of March 26, 1936, and desire to express my sincere appreciation for the commendatory remarks contained therein relative to the work of this Bureau in the Edward Bents case.

In view of the fact that it has been possible to arrange for you to personally interview Bents, the statements he made to Agents of this Bureau concerning the robbery of the Peoples Savings Bank, Grand Haven, Michigan, on August 12, 1933, are not being set out herein. I trust you found the interview satisfactory and that it has materially assisted you in your investigation of this bank robbery.

Assuring you of my desire to cooperate in all matters of mutual interest, I am

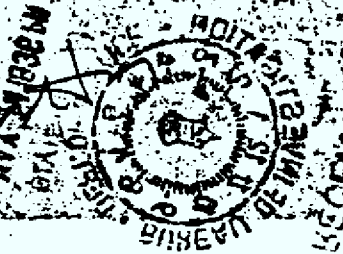
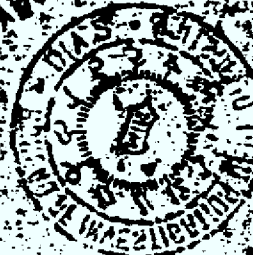
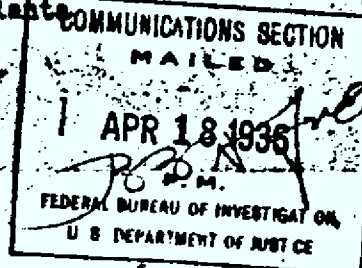
Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover,  
Director.

Mr. Nathan .....  
Mr. Tolson .....  
Mr. Baughman .....  
Chief Clerk .....  
Mr. Clegg .....  
Mr. Coffey .....  
Mr. Edwards .....  
Mr. Egan .....  
Mr. Foxworth .....  
Mr. Harbo .....  
Mr. Joseph .....  
Mr. Keith .....  
Mr. Lester .....  
Mr. Quinn .....  
Mr. Schneider .....  
Mr. Tamm .....  
Mr. Tracy .....  
Miss Gandy .....

CC Detroit  
New York  
Atlanta



**Federal Bureau of Investigation**

**U. S. Department of Justice**

**501 Healey Building**

**Atlanta, Georgia**

**May 2, 1936**

**WMB/D**  
**91-49**

**Director,**  
**Federal Bureau of Investigation,**  
**Washington, D. C.**

**Re: EDWARD WILHELM BENTZ**  
**Peoples Savings Bank,**  
**Grand Haven, Michigan**  
**BANK ROBBERY**

**Dear Sir:**

On April 8, 1936, Bentz furnished information concerning the hiding place of the securities taken from the above mentioned bank to Sergeant P. L. Hutson, Michigan State Police, and to Chief of Police Lawrence DeWitt of Grand Haven, Michigan.

The Atlanta Office recently received letters from both of these officers advising that they have followed the directions furnished by Bentz but that they have been unsuccessful in their attempts to locate the securities. They requested this office to display certain photographs to Bentz, in order to determine more definitely where these bonds are cached.

It is my opinion that Bentz will be pleased to assist these officers, and authority is requested to furnish Sergeant Hutson and Chief of Police DeWitt with the information they desire to secure.

**Very truly yours,**

*E. E. Conroy*

**E. E. CONROY,**  
**Special Agent in Charge**

**cc: Detroit**

**RECORDED**  
**&**  
**INDEXED**

**MAY 15 1936**

91-57-13

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
MAY 4 1936 A.M.	
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
TWO	FILE

34

PEF:TD  
21-57 - 18

May 12, 1936

RECORDED

Special Agent in Charge,  
Atlanta, Georgia.

Re: EDWARD WILHELM BENTS;  
Peoples Savings Bank,  
Grand Haven, Michigan -  
BANK ROBBERY.

Dear Sir:

The Bureau has received your letter of May 2, 1936, in which you request permission to display to Bents certain photographs which have been received from the Michigan State Police and to furnish Sergeant F. L. Hutson of that organization, and Chief of Police Lawrence DeWitt, of Grand Haven, Michigan, with whatever information might be developed as a result thereof; and also whatever further information might be secured from Bents regarding the location of certain securities taken during the robbery of the above bank.

You are authorized to render this assistance to the interested officials.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,  
Director.

cc-Detroit

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
MAILED  
@ MAY 13 1936  
P. M.  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

*Handwritten signature: J. Edgar Hoover*

*Handwritten initials: JH*

501 Henley Building  
Atlanta, Georgia  
May 22, 1936

WHR/D  
91-49

Special Agent in Charge,  
Detroit, Michigan

Re: EDWARD WILHELM BENTZ, with aliases;  
et al. Peoples Savings Bank,  
Grand Haven, Michigan  
BANK ROBBERY

Dear Sir:

In view of the fact that all investigative work has been completed in the entitled case in this district, and Ed Bentz has been transferred to Alcatraz Penitentiary, instant case is being considered referred upon completion to the office of origin.

Very truly yours,

E. E. CONROY,  
Special Agent in Charge

cc: Bureau ✓

91-57-
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
MAY 23 1936
FUG. SURV. TWO



Post Office Box 512  
Chicago Illinois

May 25, 1936

Special Agent in Charge  
Detroit, Michigan

RE: EDWARD WILHELM BENTZ with  
aliases, et al - PEOPLES  
SAVINGS BANK GRAND HAVEN,  
MICHIGAN - BANK ROBBERY

Dear Sir:

Referring to your letter dated April 16, 1936, in the  
above captioned matter, this is to advise that Special Agent  
A. J. Forstrom of this office contacted Captain John Norton, former  
Chief of Detectives, Sergeant Jack Hanrahan assigned to the  
Chief of Detectives' office, deputy chief Walter C. Storm, and  
Charles Coughlin, Identification Unit, all of the Chicago Police  
Department, Chicago, Illinois, for information concerning the  
identity of one Reddie, who is alleged to have participated in  
the above named bank robbery, who is known to have the two middle  
fingers missing from his right hand, and who was formerly a  
gangster.

No one of the above named persons could furnish infor-  
mation concerning such an individual, all stating that the only  
person who would remotely answer this description would be  
William S. White, alias Willie White, alias Three-fingered Jack  
White, who was killed on January 23, 1934, by persons unknown  
in Oak Park, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago. His description as  
obtained from Sergeant Coughlin is as follows:

Name: William S. White, aliases: Willie White;  
Three-fingered Jack

Chicago P.D. No. C-16556, arrested 4-29-29,  
general principles

Age: 32; weight, 175 lb.; height 5'11" 2/3  
hair, medium chestnut; eyes, hazel.

Marital Status: single

Scars and marks: 1 m. 2 vertical cut scars 5 x 2 on  
forearm, inner; ring, middle and index finger  
amputated. Fingerprint classification: 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1

1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1

JUN 2 1936

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FILE



According to Sergeant Coughlin, White was a ~~Japanese~~ gangster actively engaged in labor union rackets prior to his death.

Inasmuch as id Bentz alleged that Freddie was killed in Melrose Park, Illinois, inquiry was made at the Cook County Coroner's office; that office informing that no record of homicides was kept by communities in which they occurred, and without the full name of the victim, no record of the death could be found.

Discreet inquiry was also made at Oak Park and Melrose Park, Illinois, without success.

Inquiry of Ross Sanders, former superintendent of the Protective Department of the Illinois Bankers Association, 33 E. LaSalle Street, revealed that the only bank robber he knew named Freddie was Freddie ~~Boyd~~, alias Freddie ~~Donnan~~, who is an associate of George ~~Coetz~~, Almer ~~Carter~~, Harold ~~Walderton~~ and Edmund ~~Bartholmey~~, all subjects in the Brekid and Penap cases.

According to Sanders, Boyd was wanted for the robbery of the State Bank at ~~Franklin Park~~, Illinois, 13 miles west of Chicago on January 18, 1936, in which he participated with Coetz and ~~Chuck~~ ~~Brunsworth~~, who was killed shortly thereafter by officers at Cicero, Illinois. Mr. Sanders was unable to state whether Boyd was ever apprehended or killed, and had no available photograph of him.

The files of the Illinois Bankers Association reflect that Boyd was described as follows:

Born Feb. 28, 1898 at St. Cloud, Minnesota  
Height, 5'8"; weight, 160 lb.; hair, dark brown;  
eyes, brown.

The report of Special Agent W.R. Ramsay dated August 8, 1934 at San Francisco, California in the Brekid case reporting an interview with Irene ~~Coetz~~, reflects that at that time (date of interview) according to Mrs. ~~Coetz~~, Boyd was incarcerated in the Minnesota State Penitentiary at Stillwater, Minnesota for bank robbery.

In that there appears to be no further investigation in this matter, this case is referred upon completion to the office of origin.

Very truly yours,

LADD  
Special Agent in Charge

91-70  
AL 152 cc Bureau



**Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
~~WASHINGTON, D. C.~~  
Ottawa, Ontario**

*W. Rosen*

450...

July 20, 1943.

Personal and Confidential

J. Edgar Hoover, Esq.,  
Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation,  
U. S. Department of Justice,  
Washington, D. C., U. S. A.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

There is being enclosed herewith copy of the transcript of the testimony in the case of the People of the State of Michigan versus Theodore Bentz, alias Theodore Craig. This trial was held at the Circuit Court for Ottawa County, Michigan, U.S.A., on September 24, 25, 1934, before the Hon. Fred T. Miles, Circuit Judge. The case was a trial by jury. The copy of this transcript was forwarded to me by subject Ted Bentz, who is presently incarcerated in the Jackson Penitentiary, Jackson, Michigan, where he is serving a life sentence for bank robbery.

Enclosed herewith are two copies of a letter which subject Bentz wrote me when forwarding the above-mentioned transcript. I have read this transcript and know the Bureau has all this information in their files concerning the bank robbery but feel, however, that I should make the receipt of this testimony an official matter of record with the Bureau, as well as correspondence received from Bentz concerning his appeal of this case.

RECORDED & INDEXED

As you know, Ted Bentz has been corresponding with me since the time I first met him in Burlington, Vermont, when he appeared as a

91-57-15  
OCT 12 1943



61 OCT 20 1943

- 2 -

government witness against Clyde Nimerick, w.a.s. bank robbery, who was arrested by Bureau Agents in Chicago and found guilty by the jury in Burlington, Vermont.

Since this meeting with Ted Bentz, he has written me from time to time and thought I should continue to correspond with him inasmuch as he might make a valuable informant some day for the Bureau.

Also enclosed herewith are copies of the letter which I wrote to Ted Bentz acknowledging receipt of the transcript.

Very truly yours,



M. Joseph Lynch,  
Inspector.

Encs. 3

40

COPY

Name Ted Craig Bentz No. 46144 To Whom M. Joseph Lynch Relation Friend  
Date 6/21/43 Street F.B.I. City Washington State D.C.

CENSORED

From: Ted Bentz,  
46144 - 4000 Cooper Street  
Jackson, Michigan

July 14, 1943

Mr. V. Joseph Lynch,  
Federal Bureau of Investigation,  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Joe:

I have your interesting letter dated April 27th and was delighted to hear from you. Having been so busy with everything, I just couldn't get around to answering sooner. And, of course, I wanted to mail you a copy of my transcript. I finally got it together; you will find the same enclosed herewith. You may keep this for your personal file, since I have additional copies. Let me have your comments - okay?

By the time you have read through the testimony of the trial I expect to have in the mail to you copies of all the new evidence which I have obtained since the trial. With that I may be able to include a copy of my motion and perhaps copies of the appellate procedure.

So far my luck on appeal hasn't been so hot. Michigan Supreme Court refused to review the case. My motion for leave to appeal was denied, and I am now preparing to appeal the case to the United States Supreme Court. My first motion in the highest tribunal shall be a motion for leave to appeal. Since I should like to bring in the facts, I am attempting to perfect a general appeal rather than seek a review by writ of certiorari. However, the court under the statute you know has the right to revert to certiorari. With the application for leave to appeal I am intending to send up a certified copy of the entirely complete record. It may give the court incentive to perpend the new evidence which, if presented on a retrial of the cause, would effect my acquittal.

I am particularly interested in having you read the confession made by Ed in the case, wherein which confession he names his confederates and exonerates me. Also you should read the "Testimony in Error" in which Ed points out how the bankers mistakenly identified me for Fisher. These items shall be included with the copies of the new evidence copies of which I propose to mail to you.

ENCLOSURE

91-57-15

41



At the present time about 300 of us fellows are helping the O.P.A. with food rationing books, addressing and mailing etc. We have some two million of them to distribute by mail to the various towns in Michigan. We are getting out about 100,000 a day I understand. It is a voluntary job. However, while this is going on there is no school. Thus for the present I am teaching the boys how to work on rationing books for the Government. There isn't much to it. All it requires is a fair education and a good handwriting. The boys take to it like ducks to water. And most of them are positively enthused.

If you ever do go to California, you certainly should not reject an opportunity to meet Capt. Hansley. He's a swell guy.

Speaking of Ed, he is getting along fine. I hear from him every month. At present the Gov. is paying them a small wage for doing some sort of war work in the prison. He has been pretty busy with his literary endeavors. In case you care to drop him a line, his number is Box FMB 307 A Z, Alcatraz, Calif.

The weather must be enjoyable nice up there in Ottawa at this time. Or have you left? We are laboring under a sweltering wave, and boy, would I enjoy a good swim out there somewhere.

Just received a letter from my cousin Walt who is a Sergeant in the U.S. Intelligence Service in Africa. He was talking about how swell it was to get a good swim in the ocean off Port Said after that battle in which his outfit was given the credit for capturing that famous German general "Von Arnim." Walt, having been in the thick of it, scored for some irreplacable souvenirs. He is indescribably proud of his medals. He is a great guy. Comes from Minnesota, an ardent fisherman, a splendid duck and deer hunter. In his letters he occasionally reminds me that "we" have a date after the war to go fishing "up there in Minnesota" in his favorite spot. I smile, I got to get out of this can first.

By the way since, you are interested in what my possibilities for a parole in 14 months hence when my ten calendar years shall have expired, it might be well to let you know. Well, sir, you know the judge in his opinion denying the motion I made to amend sentence stated if the Parole Board thinks I am or I should say could be safely paroled, the sentence at the termination of ten years would be modified accordingly. Thus I assume the Judge would recommend me for a parole. I have a good prison conduct record. I have, I believe, vastly improved myself. I have, I believe, accomplished much. Further, I have positive evidence of my innocence.

42



Therefore, I believe the Parole Board - when the ten years are served - will consider me for a parole under the ten-year life law. Capt. Hansley has offered me a swell position, taking full charge of his "Lodge on the Hill" summer and winter resort, or I would probably be assigned to some work beneficial to our war effort. Capt. is willing to supervise my parole and, of course, he would be my parole officer if agreeable to the Parole Board. In case I lose out through the courts, I shall petition the Parole Board. In that connection I may ask you for a letter?

Things otherwise are going along well with me. I often wonder just how the people out there are taking the present situation. A fellow hears and reads a lot about it, but a personal observation of them gives one a better understanding of their whims, their sentiments, the daily pursuits in life. As a sort of a writer, naturally, I would observe the various characters.

Well, Joe, let me hear from you whenever you have time to do me a letter, won't you? And tell Mr. Hoover that I think he and his staff are really doing a swell job in this war, keeping down sabotage and criminal activity. And don't forget to stop in here when you fellows happen around. With best wishes to you and your grand boss, I am

Sincerely,

Ted

Ted Bentz

Sgd. Ted Bentz

P.S. Acknowledge receipt of transcript, eh?

Ottawa, Ontario,  
July 20, 1943.

Mr. Ted Craig Bentz,  
46144 - 4600 Cooper Street,  
Jackson, Michigan, U. S. A.

Dear Ted:

I received your letter dated July 14, 1943, together with a copy of the transcript of the testimony in your case. Unfortunately due to other official commitments I have not had the opportunity to peruse this as yet but when I am in a position to comment concerning this testimony, I will get in touch with you. I did, however, want to write you and let you know that I had received this transcript and, at the first opportunity, will certainly read it.

In your letter you mentioned you were going to mail me copies of all the new evidence which you have been able to obtain since the trial, together with Ed's confession. When you get around to it, I would certainly like to have you forward these items to me.

I can readily understand that with the work which you are supervising, your teaching career is interrupted but I know that you too realize because of the international situation our personal regards have to be put aside until this job has been terminated and victory is assured.

I was glad to hear that everything is going along as well as you can expect and to know that you are enjoying good health.

Many thanks for your comments concerning Mr. Hoover and the FBI personnel. If the opportunity presents itself I will certainly convey to Mr. Hoover your best wishes for his continued success.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
ENCLOSURE

91-57-15

I do not know when I will next be in the States but if my itinerary takes me in the vicinity of Jackson, Michigan, I will certainly pay you a visit. I hope that this visit can become an actuality in the not too distant future.

I would like to hear from you, especially regarding the items which you mentioned in the letter, and it is suggested that you write me c/o the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Washington, D.C., as I do not know how long I will be at my present post of assignment and, as you know, the FBI will always forward my mail to me.

Concerning your parole, it will be appreciated if you will keep in touch with me concerning the date that this is to take place and also as to when and where you will work and live.

Very truly yours,

M. Joseph Lynch.

From: Ted Bentz  
46144-4000 Cooper Street  
Jackson, Michigan

91-57-15

ENCLOSURE

STATE OF MICHIGAN

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR ALLEGAN COUNTY

Before Hon. Fred T. Miles, Circuit Judge, and

a Jury.

September 24, 1934. (9 A M )

People of the State of  
Michigan,

vs.

Theodore Bents, alias

Theodore Craig,

Respondent.

Appearances:

Mr. John R. Dethmers, Prosecuting Attorney,  
on behalf of the People.

Mr. Albert Parsons, Attorney for Respondent.

(Jury called, examined and sworn. Opening statement  
by Mr. Dethmers.

MR. WILLIAM H. ALLEGROM, being first duly sworn by  
the Clerk, testified as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. DETHMERS:

Q Mr. Allegrom, what is your occupation?

A Banker and Assistant Cashier.

Q In which bank are you the Assistant Cashier?

A Peoples' Savings Bank of Grand Haven.

Q Is that a Michigan Banking corporation? A Yes, sir,  
on the corner of Third and Washington.

Q In this city? A In this city.

Q And were you employed as such Assistant Cashier in  
that bank on the 18th day of August, 1933? A Yes,  
sir, I was.



STATE OF MICHIGAN

CIRCUIT COURT FOR OTTAWA COUNTY

Before Hon. Fred T. Miles, Circuit Judge, and a Jury.

September 22, 23, 1934

people of the State of

Michigan,

vs.

Theodore Bantz, alias

Theodore Craig,

Respondent

TESTIMONY

Witness	Direct	Gross
William H. Kellegrom	1	18
Martha Meschke	32	35
Arthur Welling	41	50
Charles Bugelski	50	57
Frederick C. Bolt	71	78
Stipulation	75	
George Evans	81	83
John Lindemulder	84	86
Lawrence DeWitt	88	90
Defense Opening Statement	96	
Lonnie Bailey	96	100
Aaron Shugan	109	112
Charles L. Knuth	122	124
Earl Doyle	133	134
John DeLoster	136	
Christine Craig	138	142
Rebuttal-- Benjamin Rosema	146	
Objection during arguments	147	
Charge of the Court	147	
Further instructions	157	
Frederick C. Bolt, recalled	160	
Verdict	162	
Statements of Respondent and remarks of the Court in passing sentence.	163 etc.	
Stenographers certificate	165	

- Q and were you engaged in your duties in that bank on that day? A Yes, sir, I was on duty all day.
- Q And will you state to the Court what, if anything, occurred on that day other than the usual occurrences?
- A Yes, sir; at the closing time, which was about three o'clock, we were visited by some bandits, two gentlemen walked in followed by two others; we were held up.
- Q Now where were you standing in that bank when you first saw anything of these bandits, as you call them?
- A I was at the bookkeeping desk.

MR. JITHAIRS: Mark this. (Super marked Peoples' Exhibit 1)

- Q I show you here an exhibit which has been marked for the purpose of identification Peoples' Exhibit 1, and I ask you whether this is a fair presentation of the floor plan of the Peoples Bank in which you were employed on that day? A Yes, sir, that is a floor plan of the Peoples Savings Bank.
- Q And the entrance, the front entrance to this bank is where? A It is on Washington.
- Q That is on this chart. Will you indicate where the front entrance is? A Right here, this is the vestibule. (Indicating)
- Q This swinging door, that swings into the vestibule?
- A Both ways.
- Q And this is the swinging door that swings into the vestibule from the lobby? A Either way.
- Q And this is the main lobby, is it? A That is the main lobby.
- Q Whether or not these lines here indicate railings or cages? A The outline of the cages.

- Q And these four marks indicate windows in those cages,  
is that right? A Yes, sir.
- Q What is this here? A Here is the bookkeeping desk  
that I have reference to that I was working at, at the  
time; I was right about there. (pointing)
- Q How the entrance to this bank faces what direction?
- A It faces north. This here is north. Here is  
Washington. This is north. This is east, and this  
is west.
- Q And this bank is located on a corner?
- A The bank is located on this corner.
- Q And there is a sidewalk around here, the west side  
of the bank? A Yes, sir; Third Street.
- Q And what is this here? A There is the entrance going  
upstairs to the offices that are located above the  
bank.
- Q There is a small hall here? A Small hall in there.
- Q And then what is this? A It is a door that leads from the  
bank into this lobby.
- Q And into this little hall? A And into this little  
hall.
- Q By means of these two doors here you have a rear  
exit from the bank? A Yes, sir.
- Q What is this room here? A This is a large room  
we have partitioned off and use for meetings, public  
meetings, swinging doors between the main - back of  
the cages and this room.
- Q Is this a directors' room? A This is directors',  
Yes.
- Q And there is a desk here? A Desk in the center.
- Q And chairs around there? A Yes, sir.

- Q And then this is part of the bank?
- A This is the working part of the bank, eleven employees around in here.
- Q What is this room up here? A The cashier's office.
- Q And this is the entrance from the lobby also?
- A Entrance from the lobby right around the corner of the vestibule.
- Q And what is this here? A Here is the grill, there is a grill across here; there is a door that goes into the grill.
- Q From this lobby what entrances are there into the part behind the cages and the grill? A Here through the cashier's office---
- Q And all through? A And all through this way((indicating)); all through this grill door down to the front of the vault and around, and a hallway down here, hall leading back into the directors' room.
- Q But the only two entrances from the lobby into the part where the employees were was the front door to the cashier's office and the back door through the grill?
- A Yes, sir.
- Q There is a wire fence here? A Yes.
- Q How high is it? A Well it must be six and a half feet I should imagine.
- Q And it also shows the cages with wire gratings, is that correct? A This spindle work, up above the marble and down below.
- Q You say you were where when you first saw the men come in? A I was right here, right at the corner of this desk. (indicating)
- Q And where did you first see these bandits, where were

they when you first saw them? A There was two come in, come up to these windows, the teller's window.

Q That is the window right on the corner?

A Right on the corner, the teller's window.

Q As to these cages, the bottom part up the counter is composed of what? A Well on the outside it is about that height, four and a half.

Q What is that composed of? A Then underneath is marble, on the outside.

Q What is there above the four, four and a half feet of marble? A Lattice work, same---

Q Metal work? A Metal.

Q And those are little rods? A Little rods about an inch apart.

Q So you can look right through there? A Yes, sir.

Q After you saw these two men come in and approach this teller's window, what did you see next? A Well they ordered us to hold up, and I was looking in the end of a gun barrel.

Q Where was the gun barrel? A Stood right in front of this window.

Q Who was stationed at that window? A Mr. Welling then at that window.

Q Arthur Welling? A Arthur Welling.

Q And the first two men that came into the bank, where did they go? A Well one fellow stood there and said to Welling "hands up," and this other walked down this way toward the savings room window, came over here and stood here (indicating), that is where I saw him, right here; after he walked there he stood there, that is right at this door.



Q That is right in the rear end of the lobby?

A Yes, sir.

Q Right in the entrance to the room behind? A Yes, he stood there with a gun and had them covered from there.

Q And then did you see any others come in? A There was two others followed these two.

Q Did you see them come in? A Well I saw them as they got in the door, and closed the curtain, they started to close the curtain.

Q Which curtains are those? A Windows.

Q That is, which curtains do you refer to, on which window?

A Well there are curtains on the windows outside of the vestibule and these curtains over here. We had curtains one could draw.

Q Did you see those other two men do that?

A I saw one of them do it.

Q Which curtain did you see him draw? A The one in the lobby, the one in the vestibule, as they come in.

Q And then did you see those two men further?

A Well one of them, I noticed one of them going into the cashier's office, and the next time I looked up one was way over here with a machine gun.

Q And did one of those first two men stay at that window for the time being? A Stayed there for the time being until these fellows got in here.

Q What became of these other man that walked from this window? A The man that walked over here, the last I saw him, he was over here. We were ordered to lie down on the floor.

Q What was he doing over there? A He had a gun and

stood guard over there I suppose; where he went from there, I don't know. We were ordered to lay on the floor, face down.

Q Do you remember who ordered you to lie on the floor, which one of these men? A No, I don't know which one it was that told us to lie on the floor.

Q And where did you lie on the floor? A Over on this side; well, I was lying right about in here (indicating) for the simple reason that when I looked up I could see Miss Keshke lying here on the floor. She was ordered to lie down there.

Q This is the vault? A This is the vault, and here is the entrance to the vault. Miss Keshke was ordered to lie down there.

Q And as you lay down there you could see her lie down there? A I looked up and see her lie, Oh, I could just see her lying over there, yes, sir.

Q Then what happened as you were lying on the floor?

A Well I lay there on the floor like this, with my head up, until finally the fellow back of me said "put your face down." Well I was obeying orders; he had a gun over me, and before that I -- before I put my face down I saw one of the other bandits go in the vault; he called for the cashier, and I saw him go in the vault with the cashier and the cashier wasn't able to open the thing quick enough.

Q That is who? A Mr. Bolt.

Q You saw Mr. Bolt go in with one of these robbers?

A I saw him go in with one of the other robbers.

Q What happened? A He didn't open quick enough so they got Welling. I didn't see Welling come out.

Q Then what happened next? A Well after they had their loot and had the vault open ---

Q Did you see them take any of the loot? A Well when I was here, I was here and one fellow come in here (indicating), tried to shove stuff off the counter.

Q What was there to be shoved off?

A Travelers' checks and mutilated money and old, mutilated and torn bills we had in the piles, and the till is right in here - I don't know whether - I didn't see him take the till but I saw him take the other.

Q You saw him take the money off this counter?

A Yes, sir.

Q Then did you see them take anything else? A No, I saw them going in the vault, but --

Q You couldn't see what went on in there?

A No, I didn't see what was going on in there. I know that one of them - some of them took the bonds off my desk, seven thousand dollars Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul, due in two years, two thousand dollars I had on that desk, that were taken off.

Q Did you see them taken off? A No, I didn't, I must have been lying on the floor when they got them; they were gone.

Q They were gone after you came in the bank? A No.

Q As you lay on the floor and first Mr. Bolt and Mr. Welling went into the vault and then came out, what happened after that? A Well while I was lying on the floor I got a look at one of those other fellows, this fellow that was in the vault, that ordered them in the vault, one of the other bandits, until I was told to put my face down after that, and I did, well, until

we was ordered to get up.

Q You were ordered to get up? A We were ordered to get up and file out of the back door.

Q After you were ordered to get up, what happened?

A Well we went out the back door, there was some of the bandits ahead of me and some of the other employees and Mr. Bolt was ahead of me, and some other, I presume, I don't know who, another employee of the bank, I know there was a bandit back of me. When I got out on the sidewalk--

Q Wait, before you get to the sidewalk. Did you form a line before you got out, or how did that come about?

A They ordered us all up from the floor and they ordered us off the floor and ordered us to line up here and go out this way; so we all got off the floor and walked around here and went out this door. (Indicating on chart)

Q This is the rear door? A The rear door.

Q And as you went out there, after you got out, did you see anything of this bandit whom you say you saw in the first place come to a stop at the rear of the lobby near this rear entrance from the lobby into the employees' room? A He was ahead of me.

Q Did you see him then again? A Outside on the sidewalk, yes, sir; he was ahead of me. I know he was ahead of me.

Q Did you have occasion to see him then again?

A Yes, I did.

Q Where were you when you saw him then again?

A I was standing out here, just coming out here, standing out here.

Q Where was he? A Out towards the edge of the sidewalk.

- Q About how far from you? A Maybe five or six feet ahead of me.
- Q What was he doing? A He was - had a gun, machine gun or something, he was clearing the way there.
- Q That is the same man you saw standing in the rear of the lobby here? A Yes, he was shooting, he had a gun and was shooting. This is the same man that came in here and stood there; the last I saw of him he was out on the edge of the sidewalk.
- Q What if anything happened to you when you got out on the sidewalk?
- A Well the shooting started, and I got some of the scattering lead in my instep, I didn't know what to do really; I noticed the bullets come across and strike the building in one place so I thought the best thing that I could do was lay down; I got down what I thought was underneath the line of fire.
- Q Where did you lie down? A Here is the rear door, right here, and I got out there and lie down right along the sidewalk here.
- Q Right along the sidewalk? A Right along the sidewalk, close up against the building, until I noticed that they were working toward Franklin Street.
- Q Which way is Franklin Street? A Franklin Street is south. Franklin Street is off this way.
- Q The street that intersects this street here? A Yes.
- Q And you saw these bandits go down this street, down to Franklin Street? A Yes, they started going that way, and I got up and I noticed Mr. Bolt.
- Q Where did you see Mr. Bolt? A He was right ahead of me there at the rear of the bank. Here is the stairway, he was out here on the sidewalk.



And ask you if you can tell me what that is a picture of?

A That is a picture of the note teller's window,  
note and discount window, note teller, Mr. Lindermaider.

Q Where is that window with relation to the various  
windows in that cage? A That is the first window to  
the right as you come in through the vestibule.

Q That window is the front window? A Yes, sir; here is  
a door leading to Mr. Bolt, the cashier's office. This  
window is the first window.

Q I show you here Peoples' Exhibit 3, and ask you if you  
can identify that? A Yes, sir; that is the teller's  
window.

Q And this iron rail there? A It is an iron grill I  
had reference to, that is six foot, six and a half,  
tall.

Q And that shows behind the entrance into the vault?

A The entrance into the vault.

MR. DUFFINER: Mr. Parsons, do you want to step up  
and see this. Now you have before you the chart,  
Peoples' Exhibit 1.

Q I hand you the picture, Peoples' Exhibit 2, showing  
the cage, and what window did you say that was?

A That was the same; note teller's window.

Q And will you show us where that picture fits in on  
that chart? A Right in this place, right in here.

Q In other words, this extent of cage here, marble  
between and spindle work at the top, is represented by  
this line here on Peoples' Exhibit 1. A Yes, sir.

Q And then I show you this Peoples' Exhibit 3, and  
will you indicate where that would fit on this  
chart, Peoples' Exhibit 1?

In other words, does this curve in this exhibit here represent this curve on the chart? A The curve, this window right here. (indicating)

Q The window right here, and the wire fence, where is that?

A That is right here, that is this grill right here.

Q In other words, this view as we see it in this picture is the view that is presented to you if you were to stand about here on this chart. You see before you this curve, the window and the rear.

A Just about here, I imagine about in here, at the edge, or right in here. You have got the grill, there is the grill, and the vault door, all shows up in the picture.

Q This rear expanse of space cannot be seen in this picture.

A The direct line here, here is the curve, it is in a direct line.

Q In other words, this bookkeeper's window and savings window that shows on Peoples' Exhibit 1, are behind this window on Peoples' Exhibit 3? A Yes, this partition goes through there.

MR. DETERMERS: Does the jury get an idea from that?

A You see this edge here is this here space, from here to here.

MR. DETERMERS: I will ask that these Peoples' Exhibits 2 and 3 be received in evidence.

MR. PARSONS: No objection.

THE COURT: Received.

Q Now Mr. Pellegroni, you say when you saw Mr. Bolt scuffling with Mr. Doyle in the yard back of the bank that you went up there at that time? A I was there with a bunch yes, when he was struck over the head with a shot gun.

Q So you had an opportunity at that time to see Mr. Doyle?

A Yes, sir.

Q And did you see Mr. Doyle again at intervals after that?

A Well they dragged him back of Addison, Kellegrow, Colson's store and shook him out of his clothes, that is the last time I saw him.

Q Do you remember from your observation as you saw these men come in, in what order Mr. Doyle came into the bank? Was he one of those first two or one of the two that followed?

A No, he was one of the other two, he was one of the second two; he went right into the cashier's office.

Q So Mr. Doyle was not one of those two that started up to this corner window? A No.

Q Have you ever seen, since that date of that robbery, any of the bandits that entered that bank that day, aside from Mr. Doyle? A Yes, sir.

Q And the one that you claim to have seen aside from Mr. Doyle, will you state to the jury which one he is, and in what order he came into the bank? Was he one of the first two that came in?

A One of the first two that came in. They came in here, a little short fellow, had a pistol, and this one that I have reference to here.

Q That you claim you have since?

A That I have seen since, was over on this side, he guarded here, he walked over here, he walked down this way, and walked, the last I saw of him he was over here near this desk, and we have got a little desk there, it is a wall desk.

Q There is a wall desk at which you can sign checks and things like that?

A Yes, maybe it was over further than that, over in there.  
There is a little wall desk.

Q Well indicate about how that desk is located?

A Well it is just, -- this is attached to the side wall.

Q That is about the position of the desk? A Yes, sir.

Q And where did this man whom you claim to have seen since the date of the robbery, who is not Mr. Doyle, where did he come to stand?

A He was on this side, walked down here and he stood about there, the last time I seen him.

Q Near the south end of that wall desk? A Yes, sir.

Q And where were you standing at that time?

A At that time I was standing right along here.

Q At that time this short fellow you were talking about stood here? A Yes, he had me covered, and Mr. Welling covered.

Q And Mr. Welling was standing where? A Just off to one side a little bit, and had his hands up, and he had him covered and had me covered.

Q As you stood there which direction were you facing?

A I was facing this way, facing east.

Q And did you have opportunity to see beyond this little robber that stood at this window and see the other man who walked over toward this desk?

A Yes, until we were ordered to lay on the floor.

Q And where did you next see this man that you claim walked back and stood next to this small desk? A After his arrest.

Q Where did you see him? A In the county jail.

Q And where did you next see him after that? A At the hearing here.



Q That is, at the examination here in the court room?

A Yes, sir.

Q And have you seen him since then? A Yes, sir; I am looking at him right now.

Q Where is he? A Right there. (indicating)

Q You mean the man seated to the left of Mr. Parsons here? A Yes, sir.

Q Do you know that he is one of the men? A Absolutely.

Q Do you know that he is the man that you described as walking back to that wall desk? A Yes, sir.

Q Are you positive that he is the man? A Yes, sir.

Q Is there any doubt in your mind? A Not a particle.

Q Couldn't you be mistaken about it?

A I don't see how I could. You know a man when you know him. I know the man I am looking at. I have no doubt at all.

Q You are positive? A I am positive that is the man, one of them, and the man I have reference to, that walked over.

Q Walked over to that wall desk in the rear of the bank?

A Yes, sir.

Q A few more questions about Peoples' Exhibit 3. Now about where was that wall desk, if it would appear on this picture? A That would be right over here. Here is your grill door and this desk is off here to one side, on the east wall.

Q Near this door there? A Near that door. There is two of them on the east wall of the bank, one is near the grill door and the other is up toward the front.

Q And then do you say that you saw that man again after you got outside? A Yes, the last I saw him was when



Q I got out the back door, and he was ahead of me, on the edge of the street; then I lay down after that, and he walked towards -- they walked towards Franklin Street.

Q And did you then again have opportunity to observe him?

A I didn't pay any more attention, after I got up, after I lay down and got up, I saw they were walking toward Franklin Street; there were three of them.

Q Did you see that man again when you got outside?

A He was on the sidewalk ahead of me.

Q Did you see him? A I saw his back.

Q And did you have a good opportunity to see his face outside there?

A No, I didn't see his face. I saw his back as they left.

Q Do you recognize him to be the same man you had seen standing at that wall desk? A Yes, sir.

Q And you say today that man is Mr. Theodore Bantz, seated at this table? A Yes, sir.

Q Previous to the time that you saw Mr. Theodore Bantz at the county jail, did the officers show you some pictures? A Yes, they did.

Q And for what purpose? A Identifying these men.

Q Did you make any identification from those pictures?

A I did.

Q And whose picture amongst others did you identify from those that were shown to you? A Identified this gentleman here and his brother Ed; I always supposed it was his brother, they tell me it is his half brother.

Q And do you recollect about how many pictures were shown to you? A Quite a number.

Q Well would you say a dozen? A Yes, I would say maybe three dozen.

Q I mean all together, the pictures that were shown to you, do you know how many?

A I wouldn't dare say positively how many, but I saw a number of different pictures, there must have been two or three dozen anyhow.

Q Did you see a book of pictures; did they present to you a book filled with pictures?

A Yes, they had a book there with pictures in it.

Q So that you went through a book filled with pictures that was handed to you for that purpose? A Yes, sir.

Q Then in addition to that two or three dozen pictures that were not in a book? A Yes, sir.

Q Do you know about how long after the robbery it was that you identified these pictures as Mr. Theodore Bantz?

A Oh I would say maybe two or three weeks, two weeks anyhow.

MR. DISTRICT: You may take the witness.

CROSS EXAMINATION BY MR. PARSONS:

Q How did you know it was the picture of Theodore Bantz?

A Seen the man, saw the man in the bank.

Q Well how do you know now that the picture that you identified as being the picture of one of the robbers was the picture of Mr. Bantz? A How do I know now?

Q Yes. A By his likeness, of course.

Q You pointed out a picture which you now say looked like this man and told them that was a picture of the robber?

A Picture-- it was his picture.

Q How do you know that; did they tell you that?

A No, they didn't tell me that; when I see a man's picture, why your picture or my picture, I know whether it is you or isn't you. I am not blind.

Q They showed you a lot of pictures and you pointed to

- one of them and said "this is one of the robbers."
- Q I picked him out as one of the man that was in our place of business.
- Q and you pointed to another picture and you said "this is one of the robbers." A Yes, sir.
- Q And you never have seen that other man that you picked out. A I haven't been able to run on to the others, of course.
- Q But you now say-- A The little short fellow I haven't been able to run on.
- Q But you now say one of the pictures you point out is a picture of him? A Yes, sir.
- Q And do you remember the occasion when a man by name of John DeKoster of Grand Rapids called at the bank some time after the robbery and talked with Mr. Welling and Miss Keschke about the bank, about the robbery? Were you there at that time? A Why Yes, I think I was, I was in the bank; he came in there at one time.
- Q Did you take any part in the conversation with Mr. DeKoster at that time about this robbery?
- A Personally, no.
- Q Did you hear the conversations? A I heard them talking; didn't pay any attention to it, what they had to say.
- Q But you never picked out Mr. DeKoster and said he looked like one of the robbers? A No, sir.
- Q You don't think he does look like one of the robbers, Mr. DeKoster? A No, I wouldn't say that he does. I didn't pick him out for one of the robbers.
- Q Doesn't he look like Mr. Bantz, the respondent here?
- A No.
- Q He doesn't in fact look like him at all. A I don't think he does.

Q Did you hear the conversation that took place  
at a later occasion about this same matter with Mr.  
Belotter, at which Mr. Lawrence DeWit was present?

A No, I didn't hear the conversation.

Q You didn't hear that? A No, sir.

Q About - on this exhibit now, Mr. Bellegrom, about  
how far in feet would you say it was from this desk--  
you were at which desk, this one here?

A No, sir.

Q You were here? A I was over at this desk there.  
(Indicating)

Q About how far in feet would you say it was from the point  
where you were to this vestibule door here where  
these men first came in?

MR. DETMERS: That map is drawn to scale.

A The scale is right there and it will give it to you.  
It is two feet for every inch, you can figure it right  
out; don't have to do any guess-work.

Q Fine. Well then I guess it shows on here that 34  
feet, practically, is that right, John, 34?

MR. DETMERS: You have got the wrong  
part of the rule.

MR. PARSONS: Strike that out then. (Making  
measurement) Well between 18 and 19 feet then,  
is that right?

A I would say so, yes, sir; according to the rule.

Q And between you and the door as these people come in, is  
some grill-work here? A There is grill-work,  
nothing but lattice work of the cages.

Q There is lattice work or cages, whatever they are,  
and they intercept the line of vision between the heads

- of these men as they came in and your head?
- A No.
- Q Could you see right over the top? Could you see right over the top of the grill work and see these men as they came in? A Look right through the grill-work.
- Q Well you had to look through the grill-work, that is what I am getting at. A You look right through here, yes.
- Q Did you pay any particular attention to those first two men who came in, as they were going over to this teller's window here? A Nothing more than them going up to the window.
- Q You saw two men go up to the window? A Yes, going up to the window.
- Q And at what point in their progress was it that you first took any particular notice of the face of the men that you now see, or Mr. Craig?
- A Well when we were ordered to hold up our hands.
- Q And that was at the time when the short man --
- A --and Mr. Craig was at that window.
- Q Where in that window? Then you would be looking through the grill-work by the teller's window at which they were, is that right? A Yes, sir.
- Q And did they stand side by side at the window?
- A Mr. Craig was on the south side of him. In other words, the little short fellow stood here and Mr. Craig was on this side and worked around this way.
- Q How long did they stand there? A Enough so they ordered us to hold up our hands.
- Q In other words, they walked to that window together, and immediately upon arriving there the short man asked for some change, isn't that right? A He asked for some change.



Q Did you hear that? A No, I didn't hear that.

Q You don't know that, only as you heard that?

A Only as I was told.

Q And they walked over there and immediately after they got there you heard somebody say "Step back, this is a hold-up!" something of that kind?

A Yes, sir.

Q And immediately after that happened then Craig then walked over to this position here near the back door?

A He walked down to the savings room window there over to that desk.

Q With the side of his face toward you as he went?

A Part way, yes, till he got down to the east side of the building, then I seen the back of his head.

MR. DETMERS: I didn't get that. (answer read)

Q At that time as Craig, as the man you said was Craig, started to go away from the teller's window, had you at that time seen these other two or four men?

A Yes, the other two come in and went into the front office.

Q And how long did you stand there observing this short man in the window and the other bandits that had come up there, before you were told to lay down on the floor? A Well it was only a matter of a few minutes, I imagine, after they got us all lined up and had us all hold up our hands, we were told to lie on the floor.

Q It all happened with great rapidity did it not?

A With great rapidity, yes, sir.

Q How much training have you had at guessing at time or minutes when you are not looking at a watch or a pendulum, have you ever tried that? A I don't think I have had any more training than the average man has possibly.

Q What would your best judgment be as to the length of time that elapsed from the time these first two men came in, to the time you got up off the floor and were herded out of the bank?

A From the time we were allowed up and the time we were herded out of the bank?

Q Yes. A Possibly fifteen, twenty minutes, maybe twenty-five minutes.

Q Did you testify at the examination on that subject?

A I don't know exactly how long it was, I didn't time it, I don't know; I know it seemed like that (snaps fingers), and in and out, I mean.

Q That would not be fifteen, twenty, twenty-five minutes would it? A I don't know how long it took; I know what they did; they did their job and got out.

Q You testified at the examination you thought it was about three minutes, did you not? A Three minutes what?

Q That this matter took, inside of the bank.

MR. DETMERS: What page?

A Three minutes to hold up the bank?

Q Yes. A That is an error, that is not right.

Q All right, let us find it. (Looking through transcript of examination)

A They spent more than three minutes there.

Q Oh yes, that is my error. You testified that it was about three minutes after the first two men came to the teller's window, it was about three minutes from the time they came in before you were ordered to lay on the floor. Is that about right? Page 16.

A Well I imagine that is about right; I would say it was, yes.

- Q Might have been even less than that?
- A That might have been a little longer.
- Q But it was just a short time? A Yes, sir.
- Q Just long enough for these two bandits to walk over to walk over to this window and call on Mr. Welling to step back, walk over here, this one walked over here, and immediately after that you were told to lie on the floor. A Well the other two fellows walked to the front office or came around, they got in back there pretty close to where I was.
- Q Did they come around rapidly? A Sure, they covered between there, the others went right in there. (indicating on chart)
- Q When this man you identify stood over there by this wall desk where I indicate, how long was that before you were told to lie on the floor? Almost immediately after he got there were you told to lie on the floor?
- A After he got over there -- we were told to hold up our hands, we were all holding our hands up, and after that all they said, they told us to lay on the ground, or made us come around in back here and lay on the floor.
- Q And that happened almost immediately after this man got to this position over here, did it not?
- A Yes, sir, or shortly after that.
- Q And while you were looking at this man, were you also observing the man who stood where Peoples' Exhibit 8 shows the teller's window, were you looking at him?
- A I was watching both of them to the best of my advantage.
- Q How far apart would you say they were after that man got to his station back here? A What distance, do you mean?

Q Well how far would a straight line be from this little short fellow that stood at the teller's window to this desk over here at that desk?

A Measure it; you have got a rule.

Q It says around 18 or 19 feet I believe, Mr. Dethmers.

MR. DETHMERS: Yes.

Q And at the same time this man first arrived here eighteen or nineteen feet from this teller's window, where were Doyle and the other robber? A Doyle went into the front office.

Q How far would he be from this desk you were at at that time? A Doyle?

Q Yes. A I am not guessing. You can measure it.

Q Whereabouts would that be, just show us here.

A There is the desk where Mr. Bolt was standing near the telephone, right here.

Q That is where Doyle was? A Doyle came in and held him up, told him to stick them up. An inch represents two feet.

Q John (Mr. Dethmers), said one foot. A Well those are half inches.

Q Well then wait a minute. Are we right about this distance over here?

MR. DETHMERS: One inch is two feet, but this is one inch, two of those marks.

Q Then we weren't correct here. Oh yes, that is right.

A Right in here is the desk. Here is where he was standing

- holding up Bolt, right down here; here is a cage where Mr. Lindemulder was, and I was right here.
- Q About 17 feet away. A Right here at the corner of this here desk, working. I was right in line with this man's gun here, this man had me covered there; he had Welling covered at the same time.
- Q And these men over here, you had gotten a pretty good look at them so you feel you could identify both of them if you saw them again, at the same time you got a similar look at this man over here, is that right?
- A I can identify -- well Doyle is one of them and Ed Bentz is the other. I can identify Ed Bentz if I ever see him, yes.
- Q And he was here with Doyle? A He came through there with Doyle.
- Q How long did he stand there before you got a good look at him, before they told you to get on the floor?
- A He didn't stand there very long. I was down here, Doyle was in here first; Doyle was in here the first thing I knew I was looking at the top of a machine gun, I saw the gun; he got around in the cage.
- Q After you lay down on the floor you didn't see this man come over here again until you saw him outside?
- A I didn't see him again until I saw him outside.
- Q And then you say you saw the back of his head?
- A Just the back of his head as he was walking around, going out with the crowd. There was quite a crowd of people in there.
- Q You never had seen this respondent you now identify, or any of them, before in your life, had you, so far as you know? A Not to my knowledge.
- Q And if Mr. Craig or Mr. Bentz was the man, after you



saw him in the bank robbery, you didn't see him again until you saw him here in jail? A No, I didn't see him since he left the bank, I didn't see him until he was arrested, and come up and identified him in the jail out of a bunch of maybe seven or eight others.

Q Before you identified him had you seen a picture in the paper of the man they had arrested?

A Seen a picture in the paper -- I don't know as I have. I had seen a picture, we identified him, we picked him out, the man we wanted, the man we had in our bank.

Q Before you identified him at the jail or identified his picture, had you seen in the paper any photograph that purported to be a photograph of the man they had arrested? A I don't recall.

Q This man that you now identify to be Mr. Craig here, do you know whether he stopped at the savings teller's window too? A Savings teller's window?

Q Yes. A No; no he walked right over to the east wall; he walked down that way, but he kind of walked over to the east wall. Miss Meschke was right in front of the grill.

Q Who was at the savings teller's window?

A There was nobody at the savings teller's window. Miss Meschke is the savings teller but she didn't happen to be there.

Q Do you know who instructed all to lie on the floor?

A Yes, this man, Mr. Craig.

Q This man here is the man you say who made all lie down on the floor? A Yes, sir.

- Q When did he do that? I understand your testimony that he left this point here and went here. Now where is the savings teller's window from here; that is the place you saw him. A Here is the savings teller's window, over in here. He walked down this way, come over here, stood over here. I wouldn't say whether, just how many feet or anything, but he walked over here and he had a gun.
- Q And from there he ordered this lady to lie on the floor, is that right? A She was not in there, she happened to be inside in front of the vault door, just inside of that grill.
- Q He didn't go inside here at all that you saw, did he?
- A No, he didn't go in.
- Q Did he give her an order from this point here to lie down on the floor? A From which point?
- Q Where he stood, wherever he was. A From wherever he was he ordered her to lie down; when he ordered her to lie down he made her lie down right there inside of the grill.
- Q Do you know what kind of weapon he had? A Sir? No, he had a gun, that is all I do know.
- Q After this robbery in question, Mr. Lellagrow, did you describe to anybody the bandits, for anybody?
- A Did I describe the what?
- Q Describe the bandits to anybody, attempt to describe them after the robbery? A Oh, I don't know as I did, I can't recall.
- Q Were you interviewed by representatives of the public press and asked to describe the robbers?
- A I don't recall whether I was or not. There was plenty

of news, per people around there taking pictures,  
if that is what you refer to.

Q Do you know whether any of them asked you to describe  
the robbers? A At that time when it happened?

Q Yes. A No, I don't think they did. We hadn't  
gotten settled down yet.

Q You say that outside, after this shooting occurred,  
the last you saw of the respondent was as he was  
going away? A Yes, sir; walking toward Franklin  
Street.

Q Going on a run or slowly? A Oh they were  
walking along pretty lively; I don't recall them  
really running.

Q Where was the one you describe as Ed Bentz?

A Ed Bentz?

Q Yes. A At what time?

Q At the time that you last saw the respondent.

A Where was Ed?

Q Yes. A Why he was one of the three I imagine that  
was with the gang; he must have been one of the three  
that was with the gang, going toward Franklin.

Q And was that the same time that Doyle was being  
captured? A Well they were ahead of Doyle.

Q They were all ahead of Doyle? A Doyle was the  
last one, and--

Q And at the last you saw this respondent, as you say,  
you didn't see the other bandits, other two bandits  
at all then did you, is that right?

A After the last time I saw him?

Q Yes, he was the last one you saw? A He was the

last one I paid any attention to ahead of me, yes;  
I know the other two was out.

MR. PARSONS: I think that is all.

IS DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. DISTENFELD:

- Q Just for the sake of clearing this up, I show you Peoples' Exhibit 3, and will you indicate on that picture about where Mister--as you call him Mr. Craig, was standing as he ordered Miss Meschke to lie down?
- A Well he stood right-- he was right in here. There is an alleyway and he could have guarded that alleyway.
- Q Near the wall desk? A Near the wall desk, near the desk that stood near that door.
- Q Where was Miss Meschke? A She just happened to be here (indicating on picture), and when we were ordered down she lay down just inside the grill. We were told to lie face down.
- Q Before you lay down on the floor these two men that came into the entrance, did they come into this room where you were? A Oh yes.
- Q So you had opportunity at that time to see Doyle and the one you call Ed Bantz? A Doyle came and Ed Bantz, yes, sir.
- Q Came into this room, but you were laying on the floor?
- A Well one of them did. It was Ed that came in, and it was one of them came in here, stood with a machine gun, I am pretty sure, because we were ordered to lay down on the floor. I lay down there, (indicating).
- Q Where was Ed Bantz when you saw him? A The last time I saw him he had gone to lock the back door, I think that is what he did, because from there he went back into the vault.

Q Did you see him in this room at all, around the desk where you were working? A I saw him walking up and down in here (indicating), I saw him—the best look I had at him was when he was going along in here.

Q Toward the vault? A No he was walking this way.

Q Toward the rear directors' room?

A Toward the rear directors' room to look that back door.

Q Part of the time in answering questions you referred to Theodore Bentz and then in response to questions by Mr. Parsons you called him Theodore Craig. In both instances you were referring to the same person, were you not? A They are the same person. We identified these fellows always supposing their names were Bentz and Bentz Brothers, found out afterwards they go by the name of Craig. I don't know how many more names they have.

Q But both times you were referring to this man here?

A To this man here.

MR. DISTRICT: That is all.

RE CROSS EXAMINATION BY MR. PARSONS:

Q Mr. Bellegrom, how was this man you now identify as Mr. Craig or Bentz, how was he dressed on that occasion? A Had on a sort of gray suit, wore a white straw hat.

Q Glasses? A No glasses to my knowledge.

Q About how tall was he? About how tall do you think he is? A Six?

Q About how tall?

MR. DISTRICT: He is a little hard of hearing.

Q About how tall would you say he was?

A Well about as tall as I am I guess; I am five ten, five eleven.



Q Well he was considerably taller than the man who stayed there at the window? A He was taller than the little fellow, yes, he was.

MR. PARSONS: That is all.

MR. DITHMERS: That is all.

MISS MARTHA MISCHKE, being first duly sworn by the Clerk,  
testified as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. DITHMERS:

Q Miss Meschke, you are employed at the Peoples Savings Bank in Grand Haven? A Yes, I am.

Q And you were on the 18th day of August, last year?

A Yes, I was.

Q What is your capacity in that bank? A I am a savings teller.

Q And you were on this 18th day of August? A I was.

Q Were you working in that bank that particular day?

A Yes, I was.

Q And were you present at the time during which Mr. Hellegren has testified when certain bandits entered the bank? A I was.

Q And where were you when you first noticed anything unusual in connection with it? A I had just finished the posting at a desk inside of the bank and had walked over past the--was going to walk over past the vault door and put the deposit tickets on the spindle.

Q You were walking in the alleyway here? A Yes, sir.

Q And you were going where? A Just past the desk, I got just about up to where this man came rushing in with a gun, pointed it at me.

Q Where was this man when you first saw him?

A Just coming running up here.

- Q What was he doing? A Well Mr. Doyle had him by the arm, Mr. Doyle had a pistol he was pointing across the street to the McGlellan store.
- Q Where is the McGlellan store from here? A West.
- Q Right across from here? (indicating on chart)
- A Yes, right across from this entrance you go into the McGlellan store.
- Q Then what did you see happen? A Then Bolt and Doyle started to tussel, and the next thing they were down on the ground and by the time I was up well over here, Mr Bolt was there, we were --
- Q That is in the rear of the bank? A No, that - yes, the rear of the bank, they were over on the lawn, they got over on the lawn in the back of the bank at that time.
- Q That is, off the length of the sidewalk here, to the east of the sidewalk? A To the east of the sidewalk.
- Q What became of the other bandits by that time when the scuffle came about? A They went towards Franklin Street, they went south toward Franklin Street.
- Q Where were they when the scuffle started between Mr. Bolt and Mr. Doyle? A They were ahead, they left and they got ahead of Mr. Doyle and Mr. Bolt; Mr. Bolt and Mr. Doyle were the last ones in there.

MR. PARSONS: Do you want to offer that Exhibit 1 in evidence?

MR. DATHMERS: I was going to offer it, yes.

MR. PARSONS: No objection.

THE COURT: All right; received.

(Exhibits marked Peoples' Exhibits 2 and 3)

- Q I show you here a picture marked Peoples' Exhibit 2,

Q Going in this direction down toward here? A Yes, sir.

Q Then you were over here? (Indications on exhibits.)

A Yes, sir, right there.

Q I show you here Peoples' exhibit 3, and ask you if you can show on this picture where you were at that time?

A Right here.

Q Just about where you are shown in this picture?

A Yes, sir, right there.

Q And this man was coming right toward you? A Uh, huh.

Q And past the cage in there? A Past the window.

Q And then as he came toward you he pointed a gun at you, what happened next?

A I saw him coming and he said "stay right where you are, don't move; if you do I will shoot, if you attempt to press any button I will shoot," and he told me to lie down and I did.

Q Where was he when you saw him after that? Did you see him then from there on? A No, the last I saw him was here, but I imagine he walked over to this place.

Q You didn't see him go over to that place?

A No, because I was down on the floor.

Q Is he the one that ordered you to lie down? A Yes, he did.

Q And then you did lie down on the floor there?

A Yes, I did.

Q And do you know what happened after that?

A No, I don't, I don't know what happened; I heard a scuffle.

Q Weren't you peeking? A No, I didn't look at all.

Q Then what is the next thing that happened that you know about?

- Q After they had taken money and things they wanted,  
A he ran one of the bandits say " get the girls, where  
are the girls," then the other one said " get all of  
them out," so we were all ordered up off the floor  
and went and filed out the back door.
- Q That is, you went from where you were lying, in which  
way? A Right this way toward the back door.
- Q And were you in the group then with the employees of  
the bank, in care of these robbers? A Yes.
- Q Then you all went out of the back door?
- A Yes, I didn't go outside.
- Q What did you do? A There was one bandit in front of  
me and one in back of me. I was the last one out, I  
would have been the last one out, except for the one  
behind; there was a lot of shooting going on outside,  
and this bandit just kept right along, told me to go  
out, I stopped back of the door, going out.
- Q Right back of that door? A Right back of that door.
- Q And just as you were about there you stopped behind  
that door? A Yes, sir, as I was going out.
- Q You stayed there until it was all over?
- A Until it was all over.
- Q As this man came rushing toward you, pointing a gun  
at you, did you have an opportunity to observe him?
- A Yes, I did.
- Q Look at him? A Yes, I did.
- Q And have you seen that man since? A Yes, I have.
- Q Where did you next see him? A Well I saw a picture of  
him first, and after that we saw him at the county jail.
- Q How long after the robbery was it you saw a picture of  
him? A I imagine about two weeks afterwards.

- Q How did you come to see his picture? A We were shown any number of pictures to select from.
- Q How many would you say you saw? A I would say there were three or four books of them.
- Q Books? A Because they were large books that we went through and also such pictures in groups that came in from time to time.
- Q How many pictures would you say in all you looked over? A I looked over I imagine a hundred or more.
- Q And then you selected a picture as being the picture of the man that rushed toward you? A Yes, sir.
- Q And when did you first see that man after the robbery? A In the county jail.
- Q And when did you next see him? A This morning.
- Q Do you see him here today? A Yes, sir.
- Q Where is he? A Seated over there at the desk.
- Q You refer to Mr. Theodore Bentz seated at the table here? A Yes, sir.
- Q Are you sure that is the man that rushed toward you with a gun? A Yes, I am sure.
- Q Is there any doubt about it? A No.
- Q Are you positive? A Yes, I am.

MR. DETMERS: You may take the witness.

CROSS EXAMINATION BY MR. PARSONS:

- Q When you first saw this man coming toward you, Miss Meschke, how far away do you think he was?
- A Well he came rushing toward the grill and I was just inside the grill, he pointed this gun at me right through the grill.
- Q He stopped there then, at the window right in front of the grill? A Yes.



- Q And pointed a gun, and stuck the barrel through the window? A Well I wouldn't say he stuck it through, but he pointed it right at me, so he could very nicely have, if he wanted to.
- Q He said to you "lie down on the floor," or "stand where you are," whatever you have testified? A Yes.
- Q How long after he said that to you was it before you lay down on the floor? A I lay down immediately when he told me that.
- Q So that your observation of him consisted of no more than that he came rushing up to the grill, threatened you with a gun, ordered you to lie down, and you obeyed immediately? A That is right.
- Q And you never saw him before? A No, not that I know of.
- Q And you never saw him again unless this is the man? A That is right.
- Q Did you see any of the other bandits there? A No, I did not.
- Q This is the only one that you would undertake to identify? A That is right.
- Q When you lay down on the floor he was real close to the grill window? That is right up to the window, that is the last you saw him?
- A That is the last I saw of him.
- Q How far do you think it is from the grill window over to the wall desk, the desk on the east wall?
- A It is not very far, I imagine from what I learn, he moved over there just a little bit to guard the others and get a better look at the rest of the bank.
- Q That happened after you lay on the floor? A Yes, that is right.

- Q Do you remember a time when John DeKoster came in the bank, after this robbery? A I do.
- Q Do you remember the conversation that was had with John DeKoster about this robbery, after the robbery? A Yes.
- Q Is it a fact that you were of the opinion that Mr. John DeKoster looked like this particular robber who ordered you to lie down behind the window? A No, that is not right.
- Q That is not true; and didn't you tell Mr. DeKoster that he looked like one of the robbers? A He looked like one of the ones that came in, the first two, Mr. Bantz and another one, and he was supposed to have resembled the other one that came in.
- Q Well you didn't see only one of those robbers, so you can't tell what he looked like? A No, I didn't know what he looked like.
- Q That was the only one you saw, just one. A Just one.
- Q And whether or not Mr. DeKoster looked like any of the other robbers you wouldn't be able to say? A No, sir.
- Q And if you thought from your own knowledge that he looked like any of the other robbers, it would have to be the one that stopped at your window? A Yes, sir.
- Q But you say now you never claimed to Mr. DeKoster or anybody that he looked like this robber you saw? A Never.
- Q Were you there at the time Mr. DeWitt came down to the bank and talked with Mr. DeKoster about his resembling one of the robbers? A I remember Mr. DeWitt being there, but I don't believe I was in on the conversation.
- Q And you never was in on or heard any conversation at which anybody in the bank told Mr. DeKoster that he looked like the robber? A I heard them talk about it, and talking about that he resembled one of the bandits that came in first.

- Q But that conversation as you remember it, had no relation to the resemblance to the one that was identified this last time? A Not at all.
- Q Nor you didn't hear the conversation between Lawrence Delitt and Mr. Dehoster and the others so as to know just what it was? A No, I did not.
- Q Now at the time you identified the picture, whether or not any one else had previously also identified the picture in question? A You want to know whether any one had?
- Q Yes. A Before I did?
- Q Yes. A We didn't look at it at the same time, at least we weren't together when we picked it out, the one that we thought was the one.
- Q Did they have names under them, on the pictures?
- A No.
- Q Just the picture? A Just the picture.
- Q Was anybody else from the bank present at the time you made your identification? A They were all present.
- Q They were all present; that is, you made your identification in the presence of Mr. Kellegrom and Mr. Welling?
- A I looked over the pictures and picked out one that I thought was the man.
- Q And they were there, Mr. Kellegrom and Mr. Welling, were there at that time when you did that? A Yes, they were there in the bank at the time.
- Q Did they also make their identification at the same time?
- A I believe they did.
- Q You all made the identification at the same time?
- A Not at the same time, because we each--
- Q On the same occasion? A On the same occasion.
- Q Each was present when the other made the identification?
- A Yes.

MR. PARSONS: I think that is all.

AS DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. BATHURS;

Q When you made that identification, witness, would each one see which one the other person pointed out or picked out? A No, sir.

Q How was it done? A We were just shown the pictures, the officers were there, and at last I showed them which one I thought to be the man, and the rest would likewise; they all had a chance to see them separately.

Q What do you mean by that?

A We didn't all look at them in one group; we weren't just standing there saying "this is such and such man," whatever it would be; I picked out the man I thought was the one, and after I picked it out the others picked it out also.

Q And before Mr. Pellegroni and Mr. Welling picked out the man did they see which one you had picked out? A No.

Q Or before you picked it out did you see who Mr. Welling or Mr. Pellegroni picked out?

A I don't believe so. We, after we had all selected ours, we of course knew it was the same man, each one picked the same one.

Q When did you find that out, after you had picked your man out, or did you know before hand which one they had picked out? A No, I didn't know which one they had picked out.

Q And when they selected one, did they know which one you had picked out? A Not that I know of.

Q Now you say that the man you claim is Mr. Theodore Bents here is the only robber you saw well enough to identify?

A That is right.

Q And at the same time you answered Mr. Parsons that you knew that this little man came in, the man they claim was with

- Mr. Bentz, who is supposed to resemble Mr. DeKoster?
- Q That is what I heard the others, they were talking about him and said he resembled Mr. DeKoster.
- Q Had Mr. DeKoster been coming in the bank at stated intervals before the robbery? A Yes, sir.
- Q What did he come in for? A I believe he is a staples salesman.
- Q In other words, Mr. DeKoster is a man that came in the bank every once in a while? A Yes, sir.
- Q And the conversation in the bank was that one of these robbers resembled Mr. DeKoster? A That was all there was to it.
- Q Was there any conversation there to the effect they believed that Mr. DeKoster was one of them? A No.
- Q Just that one resembled him? A Just that one resembled him, just in an off-hand way.
- Q Was there any conversation that would indicate that the man who ordered you to lie down looked like Mr. DeKoster?
- A Never.
- Q To make this clear: Mr. Parsons asked about pointing a gun at you through the grill window. Is there any grill window there where you stood? A No, it wasn't through the grill, it was just through these bars.
- Q How far apart are they? A That far apart, far enough apart so you can get a good look.
- Q Are those bars far enough apart so you can stick a hand through? A Yes, sir.
- Q And it was through that you saw Mr. Bentz? A Yes, sir.

MR. DETMERS: That is all.

MR. PARSONS: That is all.



THE COURT: I will say to the jury you should not discuss the case with anybody; better not discuss any matter with anybody during the noon hour, not talk with anybody about the case at all. We will take a recess until 1:30.

AFTERNOON'S PROCEEDINGS

Arthur Welling, being first duly sworn by the Clerk,  
testified as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. DISTRICTER:

Q Mr Welling, on the 16th day of August, last year, were you employed in the Peoples Savings Bank, Grand Haven, Michigan?

A I was.

Q What was your official capacity in that bank?

A I was commercial teller.

Q And were you in the bank on that particular day?

A I was.

Q I show you here Peoples' Exhibit 1, and ask you, do you recognize this as a floor plan of the bank in which you were employed? A I do.

Q Will you state to the jury and indicate on this map at which window you were located as such teller?

A This window.

Q And were you located at that window shortly before closing time on that particular day? A I was.

Q And then what if anything occurred? A Shortly before closing time two men entered the bank and came up to my window, and one of these men asked for some change, and when they asked for the change--

Q Speak up louder. A One of these men asked for some change, and when he asked for change I gave him two dollars

in nickels and then when he wanted two dollars in dimes, and I started to work out the dimes, and all to once he said "back up."

- Q What if anything was he doing when he said that?
- A I looked up and there was a gun, I was looking into the hole of a gun.
- Q When this man came up to you and asked you for change, was he alone? A He came in with another man.
- Q Did they both come up to your window? A Yes.
- Q Then when he asked for change do you know what the two men did from then on? A When they came up, these two men came up together and when he asked for this change this second man snickered and started to move on down the lobby.
- Q Did you hear him snicker? A Yes.
- Q Then will you indicate where you saw him go, what course you saw him take? A I didn't follow him beyond-- he was right here when I saw him, and I didn't follow him down.

THE COURT: He was right where?

- A These two men came in together, and--
- Q This is your window here? A Yes; then the shorter man was on the left.
- Q That is, on whose left? A On my left, and the taller man was on the right, and the taller man started to move on down the lobby and as soon as I started to give this shorter man the change---
- Q Well did this man that later moved down the lobby, did he stop up to your window at all with the short man?
- A Yes, he came up to the window with the short man and hesitated while the short man asked me for change.
- Q Now you say that this short man first asked you for two

dollars in nickels? A Nickels.

Q And you gave him that? A Yes, sir.

Q Then he asked for change in dimes? A Yes, sir.

Q And at what point in that proceeding would you say that it was the taller man left your window?

A Well it was while I was working-- I was working on the machine to get the dimes out.

Q I forgot which he asked for first. A Nickels.

Q You had already given him the nickels? A Yes, sir.

Q Then it was while you were working the machine for the dimes that this taller man left the window? A Yes, sir.

Q Did you have occasion to observe this taller man at that time? A I did.

Q As he left your window you say you didn't watch just where he went at that time? A No.

Q Did you have occasion to see him after that again?

A I saw him later when I went into the vault.

Q Well now when this shorter man pointed the gun at you, what happened? A Well before the shorter man pointed his gun I was-- I didn't know him, and the fact that the party with him snickered and moved on down the lobby made me somewhat suspicious, and I just put my foot up near the alarm bell, and then when the short man said "back up," I looked up and saw a gun and kicked on the alarm and backed up.

Q You set off the alarm with your foot at that time, is that right? A Yes, sir.

Q Then when you backed up what happened next? A Well this man just kept saying "back up, back up, and anybody that touches a button I'll plug ---" when I went back, when I reached the back of my cage, I noticed everybody else going on the floor, and I did too.

Q And when you reached the point where you got to lie down on the floor, was this short man still on the other side of your window?

A No, he came around the rear of my cage.

Q What is that? A He came around to the rear and he was one of the men who tried to pull me off the floor and make me go into the vault.

Q That was this short fellow who pointed the gun at you?

A Yes, sir.

Q Then after you lay down on the floor what happened? Did you see anybody take any money or anything? A Well after-- as soon as I got--went on the floor, I lifted my head and watched two of the other men and they had gone-- they had gone on beyond and gone to the back door.

Q Now as you were at your window there, to what point did you back up? A I backed up directly to there and lay on the floor here.

Q And then where did you see two men go? A I saw two men, there was a man lying here, and they jumped over him and they went back to this back door.

Q That is, that would be down there at the directors' room?

A Yes.

Q Of those two men, was one of them the short man that had pointed a gun at you? A No, two different men.

Q Two different men. Then what happened next after that, as you remember? A As I remember, they asked for the cashier and they took me for the cashier, and the two, the shorter man and one other man came up there, one from behind and one from in front and started to pulling me off the floor, and they asked "are you the cashier?" I said "no." And Mr. Bolt was on the floor there also and he said "I am

the cashier," and they put me down again.

Q So they let you down again; then what happened next?

A Well Mr. Holt had gone into the vault and shortly after he came out of the vault with these men who had taken him into the vault and they asked for Welling, and when they asked for me I started to get off the floor, and one of the men stepped up to me and pulled me off the floor.

Q Was it at that time that you again saw this man who had stepped up to your window with the short man? A Yes. That was at the time I was walking to the vault.

Q So you got up from a point up here where you were lying?

A Yes, sir.

Q And walked over toward the vault door? A Yes, sir.

Q Then where did you first see this man who had been at the window? A He was standing in here.

Q Inside of the iron railing? A Inside of the iron railing.

Q What was he doing, if you remember?

A Just standing there with a gun to keep me from going on by the vault.

Q Then did you go in the vault? A Yes.

Q Then after that did you again see this man who was standing here and who had formerly been at your window?

A No, I didn't.

Q So you saw this particular man on two occasions then, at your window-- A Yes.

Q -- and later he stepped inside the grill here as you went inside the vault? A Yes.

Q Then did you emerge out of the bank with some of the other employees? A Yes, sir.



- Q Did you have occasion either during the time you were walking out of the bank or after you got outside, to see that particular man again? A No.
- Q When you got in the vault what did you do?
- A When I got into the vault I went to the safe and started to run the combination, and I knew that the alarm was already in, and this man said "hurry up," and when he said "hurry up," I was just about ready to open the combination, and it occurred to me that it would be wise to stall, so I went on by the combination and I told him I missed it, and he put a gun at my side and said "well hurry up," and I swung over the combination again and opened it up.
- Q When you set off this alarm, was there anything that could be heard inside of the bank? A These men were talking or commanding us so loud so it is very likely they didn't hear it.
- Q I mean what was this you set off, some bell in the building or outside of the building? A It doesn't set off any bells near the building, it sets off the alarms in the building, next door and in the police station.
- Q So the alarm that was set off by your touching this button, or whatever it was with your foot, it didn't create some sound inside the bank that became noticeable there?
- A No, sir.
- Q Then after you opened the safe what happened?
- A Well as soon as I had opened the safe this man that had me there inside he said to the fellows outside "take care of this man."
- Q How did he get the money? A Well he stayed inside, and escorted me to the door of the vault.
- Q When you opened the safe did he take out the money?

A No, sir.

Q What then? A He just told me to get away.

Q Did you see any money taken out of the safe?

A No, I didn't.

Q You didn't see him take the money out?

A I just opened the safe and left.

Q Then what did you hear somebody say? A He said "Take care of this man" when I came out.

Q Did you see anything taken from the bank that day, either in paper or money or bonds, travelers' checks?

A No, I didn't.

Q Now Mr. Welling, after this man that you saw step up to your window with the short fellow and then go on toward the back of the lobby, and when you claim you later saw standing here inside of the grill at the time you were going into the vault, have you ever seen that man since that day? A Yes, I have.

Q When did you next see him? A I saw him the next time at the county jail.

Q And have you seen him since then? A Yes, I have.

Q When did you next see him? A I saw him this morning.

Q And have you seen him since this morning? A Yes, I have.

Q Do you see him now? A Yes, I do.

Q Where is he? A Sitting next to Mr. Parsons.

Q Are you positive that is the same man? A I am.

Q Do you have any doubt in your mind? A Not at all.

Q Are you convinced beyond all doubt that is the same man?

A Yes, I am.

Q That is, you are referring now to Mr. Theodore Bantz or Craig? A I am.

Q Did you have some pictures submitted to you by the

officials for the purpose of examination?

A Yes, we had numbers of pictures.

Q And did you at some time or another pick out some pictures from those submitted to you? A Yes, I did.

Q Do you know about how long after the robbery that was?

A I would say within two weeks.

Q Do you remember about how many pictures were submitted to you in all? A We had books of them and then from time to time they brought in, there might have been a dozen or two in a lot.

Q How many pictures did you select? A Two.

Q Two. And was one of those pictures the picture of the man whom you now believe to be Bantz? A It was.

Q And was Miss Meschke and Mr. Allegrom present when you picked out Mr. Bantz' picture? A No, they weren't. They were all in the bank at the time, but they weren't. They were all in the bank at the time, but they weren't with me while I was looking over the pictures.

Q Did you see them pick out any pictures?

A No, I didn't.

Q Well when you picked out this picture you claim is Mr. Bantz, had you been informed that picture had been selected by anyone else? A No, I had not.

Q Did the officers suggest that picture to you? A No.

Q Did they suggest any picture to you? A No, they didn't.

Q And did you pick that picture out of the first batch of pictures that were submitted to you?

A They had already submitted a number of pictures before.

Q Irrelevant to that you hadn't identified any one? A No.

Q And what other picture did you pick out? A Of Ed Bantz.

Q Who? A Ed Bantz.

Q You haven't seen pictures of any others that you have identified so far? A No.

- Q Were either of those pictures suggested to you by any person? A No, they weren't.
- Q You picked them solely on the basis of your recollection of what you had seen on the day of the robbery? A Yes.
- Q And you say you saw Mr. Bentz next in the county jail?
- A Yes.
- Q Did you see him on that day in a line up? A Yes.
- Q Do you remember about how many were in that line-up?
- A I think there were eight or nine, I am not positive as to the number.
- Q How did the rest of them in that line-up compare with Mr. Bentz, in build or size? A They were much the same build.
- Q Was it a line-up composed of men of about the same build?
- A Yes, sir.
- Q And did you select from that line-up one whom you claimed was one of the bank robbers? A Yes, sir.
- Q Who did you select? A His name at the time was Thompson, from Detroit, Mr. Bentz.
- Q Was that his name? A It was under the alias of Thompson.
- Q That was the name given to you? A Yes, sir.
- Q Was that this same Mr. Bentz? A Yes, sir.
- Q When you selected him did you know in advance that he had been selected by others? A No, sir.
- Q And did you have any difficulty in selecting him out of that line-up? A No.
- Q Did you recognize him at all? A Yes.
- Q Did I understand you to say you had already stuck your foot under that alarm proposition before the gun was pointed at you? A Yes.
- Q So you were all prepared for that? A Yes, sir.
- Q Or was that solely because of the circumstance of this man snickering and their attitude that you did that?

- Q Yes, the fact that I didn't know either man and their actions were suspicious.
- Q After that you had opportunity to observe them further?
- A Yes.

MR. DETMERS: You may take the witness.

CROSS EXAMINATION BY MR. PARSONS:

- Q Did you notice how these two men were dressed that stepped at your window? A They had business suits on; I didn't take any particular notice of their dress except that they had business suits on, and one man had a distinctive way of wearing a straw hat.
- Q Which man had on a straw hat? A The little man.
- Q The little man. A Yes.
- Q What kind of hat did the other have on? A I don't know.
- Q You are sure that one of them had a straw hat? A Yes.
- Q And that was the little one? A Yes.
- Q And what kind of a hat did this man whom you now say is Mr. Bentz, what kind of hat he had on you don't remember?
- A No.
- Q You didn't notice at that time? A No.
- Q But they didn't both have on a straw hat? A I don't remember.
- Q Could you identify the small man if you saw him again, do you think? A I think I could.
- Q What color suit did the taller of the two men have on?
- A I don't remember.
- Q Did the taller of the two men or either of them have on glasses? A No.
- Q What? A No.
- Q Now at the time you identified this man, this respondent, in the line-up, had you already seen pictures of him in the



newspapers with his name and so on as having been arrested charged with this robbery? (Question read)

A From that, Mr. Parsons, do you mean that when I saw Mr. Bentz in the line-up I had seen pictures of him before in the newspapers?

Q Yes. A Surely, there were pictures in the newspaper that I had seen after our identification, two weeks after the robbery.

Q About two weeks after the robbery you had identified from some books, a picture of this man? A Yes.

Q Then were those the pictures that you saw in the newspaper?

A What do you mean by "those".

Q Pictures, copies of the one you had identified? A Yes, sir.

Q They were the ones that were published?

A Yes, copies of the ones that we identified.

Q When these two men came in, did this larger man stop and stand at the window there while you were counting out these nickels? A Yes.

Q And you were not paying any particular attention, or were you paying particular attention to either of them while you were counting out nickels? A Yes, I paid particular attention when they both walked up to the window.

Q You saw two of them? A I saw two of them.

Q But your attention of course was really directed to getting the right number of nickels in the machine there?

A They came in bundles.

Q Bundles? A Yes.

Q And how long did the men stand there, just while you were counting nickels? A Yes, sir, just while I was counting nickels and started working on the dimes.

Q You had more than one dollar's worth of nickels in the roll? A Two dollars.

Q And you had to break a roll open? A Yes, sir.

Q Then how much of an operation is it to count these nickels out? A To pick them out of the tray and hand them over.

Q That is all? A Yes.

Q And you handed them all over then yourself without opening them up? A Yes, sir.

Q And that is what you meant? A Yes.

Q And while you were doing that this toll man stood there and--

A And snickered.

Q And snickered, and as soon as he snickered and while you were reaching for the dimes, he started walking away?

A Yes.

Q And then at that time the man in front of the window, the short man, confronted you with a gun? A I took the dimes out of the changer, and put them on the counter, as we count them because they come loose, and when I had my head down then he pulled the gun on me.

Q Did you see the other two bandits there at that time?

A The other two that went through the office?

Q Yes. A I didn't see them at that time.

Q You saw them during the progress of the hold-up?

A Yes.

Q And did you see the man that you identified as Ed Bantz?

A Yes.

Q You think you would identify him if you saw him?

A I could.

Q Was he larger and taller than the other bandits or not?

A He was.

- Q He was larger or taller than these bandits. Was he larger and taller than this respondent? A A little.
- Q A little. You say the larger and taller of these two men who snickered and walked away; that was about the time you were working on these dimes; how far had you gotten with the dime business when he did that?
- A When he left?
- Q Yes. A Just during the operation.
- Q During the operation, and as he walked away was his face visible, did you watch him as he walked away or were you watching the one in front of you? A I was watching the dimes.
- Q You wasn't watching him after that? A No.
- Q And you didn't see him again after that until you saw him behind the grill work, is that right? A Yes.
- Q And for how long a time did you observe him behind the grill work? A When I came up to the vault he was standing just beyond the vault.
- Q Inside? A Inside.
- Q What doing? A Standing there with a gun, apparently to keep me from going beyond the vault.
- Q Did he say anything to you? A No.
- Q You to him? A No.
- Q You walked past him? A No, I didn't walk past him; I walked into the vault.

MR. DETHMERS: Let me ask for verification; when you say inside, what do you mean?

MR. PARSONS: I mean inside, there is a grill that separates the part the public is admitted to and the part that the public is not admitted to. He was

inside the place where the public is not supposed to go, is that right, and he got through there by going through the door in the corner of the railings?

A I don't know how he got in, he might have got in that way.

Q That is you didn't see him get in, but you saw him in there? A Yes, sir.

Q How close were you to him? A I would say within about six feet.

Q And your attention then was directed to getting in the vault? A Yes, sir.

Q And who was accompanying you there of the bandits, these other two that had come in? A One of the other two.

Q Was Ed Bantz one of them? A Yes, sir.

Q What about this man Doyle, where was he?

A Doyle, I think was at the back door.

Q Then when was the last time you saw the man you now identify as the respondent, where was he then when you last saw him? A Around the vault when I went into the vault.

Q You didn't see him again? A No.

Q And you didn't see him again until you saw him in the county jail? A No.

Q Your answer is "no"? A "No", yes.

Q Now you and Mr. Iellegron and the lady here, Miss Meschke, you have talked over and discussed this identification some before the trial of this case, have you not? A We haven't talked, by that do you mean that we have just talked over?

Q You have discussed your identification, and whether you were mistaken about it or not and how sure you were of it

- and so on, among your selves?
- A When we left the jail at that time we were told not to talk to anybody. Personally I haven't.
- Q You don't mean to tell me you never have discussed it after that, you never discussed this identification with Mr. Bellegrom or Miss Meschke or anybody else?
- A No, I haven't.
- Q Never have talked it over at all? A No.
- Q Never have talked with anybody there in the bank as to the possibility as to whether you might be mistaken or how sure you were? A No.
- Q Never talked that over at all; and haven't talked at all with the officers or with anybody?
- A The officers asked us at the time and they came down later and asked us about it and we told them.
- Q How were you there when this man, what is his name, Belkoster, came into the bank? A Yes.
- Q That is after the robbery? A Yes.
- Q And about how long after the robbery did you have any talk with Mr. Belkoster, if at all, about this robbery?
- A I wouldn't be certain about the time; he comes in from time to time.
- Q And you made the statement, did you, that he looked like one of the robbers? A Yes, sir.
- Q And like which one of the robbers did you think he looked?
- A Like this shorter man.
- Q Like the shorter man that was with Mr. Craig, as you say? A Yes, sir.
- Q Like this shorter of the two that came up to your window? A Yes, sir.
- Q And what would have to be--- that would be Ed Bantz?
- A No.



Q That would be a man whose name you don't know?

A Yes.

Q And it isn't a fact then that you stated to him that he looked like the respondent here? A No.

Q And your testimony is now that you never said to him or anybody that he looked like the man you had picked out?

A No.

Q Well you had the Chief of Police come down and look at him, did you not, the Chief of Police did come down?

A I saw the Chief of Police; they come down there to get an idea of what kind of a man we were looking for.

Q And the resemblance between Mr. Dekoster and this other bandit, the shorter of the two men, was quite a striking resemblance was it? A Yes, facially especially.

Q Facial resemblance was very striking? A Yes.

Q Did you hear the taller of the two bandits at your window say anything or make any sound except this snicker that you testified to, say anything at all?

A At the time he was at my window?

Q Yes. A No.

Q Did you notice where he went, where he stopped when he left your window? A Went down the lobby, I couldn't tell where he went.

Q You don't know where he went? A No.

Q Did you hear him say anything to Miss Moschke?

A Well they both were then telling us to back up, and he said he would plug anybody that would touch the button.

Q You heard that said? A Yes.

Q But could you see the savings window from where you were?

A No, sir.

MR. PARSONS: I think that is all.

RE DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. DETMERS:

Q As to this short man that was at your window, in your opinion does he resemble Dekoster in height? A No, he is probably a little taller than the short man.

Q What? A Mr. Dekoster is quite a bit taller.

Q Mr. Dekoster is taller than the short man?

A Yes, he is bigger.

Q Did you know Mr. Dekoster before this bank robbery occurred? A Yes, sir.

Q And at the time these two men and especially this short man stood in front of your window, what if anything occurred to you? A At the time nothing occurred to me except that when he told me to back up, his facial expression made me think of Mr. Dekoster, resembled it.

Q Mr. Dekoster was somebody you already knew then?

A Yes, sir.

Q And this day when Mr. Dekoster came in, did you tell Mr. Dekoster you thought he was one of the bank robbers?

A I told him that he resembled one of the bank robbers, yes, I knew Mr. Dekoster personally.

Q Did you ever think Mr. Dekoster was one of the bank robbers? A No.

Q Did you ever have any doubt since you saw the picture of Mr. Bentz here that he was one of them? A No.

Q That Bentz was one of them? A No, I didn't.

Q Have you ever, as yet, seen a picture which you picked out as being a picture of the short man in front of your window? A No, I haven't.

Q Who was it that told you at a certain time not to talk to anybody about this case? A At the time when we left

the jail they told us not to talk to anybody.

Q Didn't I come to see you at the bank one time and tell you that too? A Yes, sir.

Q And wasn't that just shortly after the bank robbery?

A Shortly after the bank robbery, or after the alignment--

I mean that was shortly after the line-up, you mean?

Q I mean shortly after the bank robbery, didn't I go over to the bank and talk to you then?

A I think you have the bank robbery and the time we looked this man over here in jail mixed up, haven't you?

Q At any rate I did tell you one time not to discuss this with the people didn't I. A Yes.

Q At any rate you saw four men come into the bank, is that correct? A I didn't see them all come in, I saw them after that.

Q I mean you saw four in there all together?

A Yes.

Q And you have identified one of them as Mr. Theodore Bentz? A Yes, sir.

Q And you have identified one from the picture as being Mr. Ed Bentz? A Yes, sir; he was the man that took me into the vault.

Q And you saw and recognized Mr. Doyle? A Yes.

Q The fourth one is which one of those men? A Is the short man that came up to my window.

Q You don't know yet who he was? A No.

Q But his facial appearance resembled somewhat Mr. DeLoster?

A Yes.

MR. DEFENSES: I think that is all.

RE CROSS EXAMINATION BY MR. PARSONS:

Q Did the officers at any time tell you, any of the

officers, the sheriff or the sheriff's force, police force, that this respondent or a man pictured to represent this respondent, whether the man had cashed some travelers' checks that had been stolen from the bank?

A Yes.

Q When did they tell you that? A They told us that when these travelers' checks were cashed; we would get wires from the Old National Bank and they told us at that time that the checks were being cashed.

Q Was that before or after you had identified these pictures?

A It was after.

Q Was it before or after you had identified this man in the line-up? A Before.

Q But you had identified the pictures before you identified the man in the line-up, that is correct, isn't it?

A Yes, sir.

MR. PARSONS: That is all.

RE DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. DIFEMERS:

Q When you identified the picture of Mr. Ed. Lentz and the one of Theodore Lentz, did you know as you selected those two pictures you were selecting the pictures of brothers?

A No, I didn't.

Q Were there names on the pictures so you could see that?

A They weren't on the front of the pictures, they were just blank pictures.

Q So you didn't know that, as you selected those two pictures?

A No.

MR. DIFEMERS: That is all.

RE CROSS EXAMINATION BY MR. PARSONS:

Q What did you find out about that? A They told us; they had the description and the names on the back of the pictures.

Q You didn't look at the back of the pictures before you looked at the front? A No.

Q They didn't tell you when they showed you the pictures who these men were? A No.

MR. PARSONS: That is all.

MR. DEFENSE: That is all.

CHARLES BUGLIANI, being first duly sworn by the Clerk,  
testified as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. DEFENSE:

Q What is your occupation? A Assistant Manager of McClellan Stores.

Q And that is located where from the Peoples Savings Bank in Grand Haven? A East of the Peoples Savings Bank, across the street.

Q Which direction? A West.

Q In other words the bank and the store are across the street from each other? A Yes, sir.

Q And both the bank and the store face the north, is that correct? A Right.

Q I show you here Peoples' Exhibit 1, and ask you whether you recognize that as being the rear side entrance to the bank? A Yes.

Q And is it a fact that the McClellan store also has a rear entrance? A Yes, sir.

Q Where is that with relation to the rear side entrance of the bank? A Directly across.

Q Across the street from each other? A Yes, sir.

- Q Do you remember this 18th day of August, 1933, when the robbery of the Peoples Savings Bank occurred?
- A Yes, sir, it was the biggest business on Friday we ever had.
- Q What is that? A We did bigger business that Friday than we ever did.
- Q And you were in that store on that day? A Yes, sir.
- Q What was the first you noticed, if anything, unusual?
- A Well I went out the side door to see what time it was; we usually bank about three o'clock.
- Q Where would you have to look to see what time it was?
- A Look out of the side door at the town clock.
- Q That is above the First Church here? A Yes, sir. I looked outside at the clock, about seven minutes to three; I looked across the street but didn't notice anything wrong until I heard somebody holler "what are you going to do, kink?" "Shoot the dog?"
- Q Who is "kink?" A Kinkema, the undertaker, he came across the street with a shot gun in his hand.
- Q Where was Mr. Kinkema when you first saw him?
- A Came across the street behind the bank going towards the alley of the store.
- Q He was coming from behind the bank toward where you were? A Yes, sir.
- Q Did you see who it was that asked Mr. Kinkema that question? A No, somebody from back of the Elks.
- Q And the Elks' Hall is south or behind the store in which you are located? A Yes, sir.
- Q Then what did you see next? A Then I got my gun and went to--
- Q Where was your gun? A Up in the office of the store.



Q What did you have in the nature of a gun?

A I had a 32 Colt.

Q That is a pistol? A Pistol.

Q Then where did you go? A I want to, I thought if I go downstairs and out the back way, I could come along the back of the building there and get a good shot at them, but when I got up there I turned to my right and looked down the alley and there was a Groger truck back there with a fellow at the wheel; he saw me have a gun in my hand and he fell on the floor; I looked to my left, there was a big car parked there with the motor running.

Q Where was that car standing? A Facing east.

Q Standing where? A Directly behind the store.

Q In the alley? A In the alley, and when I approached the car somebody moved in the front seat, I could see the arm out of the window, so I made up my mind I wasn't in a very good place, so I slid down the gang plank, slid down there and went up to the side door.

Q That is you went back into the basement of the store?

A Yes, when I got there I heard the car move, I heard somebody shift the gears, so I went up to the door of the store and there I stood at the time Linkema came.

Q Which door was that? A Side door.

Q And is that door directly across the street from the rear side entrance of the bank? A Yes.

Q Then what happened when you got there?

A Then they came out of the bank, there was Miss Correll, and this Meschke girl, and I saw four bank-- the bandits, and Mr. Bolt, and this oil man, Van Lopik, and when they came out they said " the car, where the hell is the car?" They hollered, you could hear them quite a ways, and then Linkema came running in.

- Q From where? A From the outside; he must have been in the back and he joined me.
- Q And he came running? A In the doorway.
- Q Did he run up the sidewalk?
- A Yes, he got on the south side of the entrance; I got on the north side.
- Q That is, inside?
- A Inside of the door. Well then they started shooting and there was one man with a machine gun, and he got off the curb, right off the curb outside of the bank door, and he pointed the gun up in the air and he didn't seem to make it work, because he would keep pulling it up and down, it only fired once and then stopped, and then he would ram it and then start shooting again; when he got it going, why it was too hot, so we had to keep ducking. Every time he would shoot, the glass would fly out of the door, and then one of them fired a revolver and that broke the glass; Kink fell down on the floor, I thought he was dead; he got up, he said "this is worse than war." We kept ducking in and out; he said "let us go upstairs." As we started up out of the entrance of the store the bullets came through the door; one of them went over my head, one went through the wall, and people started scattering back and forth, and one lady, she weighed about 150, came right out to the door when a bullet came through and she fainted in my arms and I pulled her back to the step and I went back to the door.
- Q Did you go upstairs or what did you do?
- A No, we tried to go upstairs but couldn't, there was a bullet came through.
- Q These things you saw happening out on the street there when the shooting was going on, just where were you?

Q Right in the entrance of the door.

Q Behind something? A Behind nothing.

Q Were you standing right in the open?

A We had our choice behind the door fastenings, that is all.

Q Is that a brick wall there?

A No, that is plaster; the outside wall is a brick wall; there are two doors; a back door about eight panes of glass, and then our door, a wooden door, but that door was open.

Q And you were standing back of the wall looking around the corner, is that the situation? A Well we were exposed but when they were shooting they were off in this direction; they couldn't get a good shot at us, the bullets would come alongside us.

Q You mean they were not directly across from you?

A Not at first.

Q Which direction were they from you?

A They were, let me see, north west.

Q As you were looking out the door you were looking east, were you not? A Yes, sir.

Q Which direction were they from you as you were looking east? A Which direction were they?

Q Yes, from you? A They were east.

Q And north? A Yes, sort of an angle. Then they kept moving until they got directly in front of us, then they switched, they started going south to Franklin Street, but the man with the machine gun kept moving right along side the curb.

Q Have you ever seen any of those men since?

A Yes, I have.

Q Which one was it that you saw of that crowd?

A There was one man in a gray suit, and he had a straw hat.  
 Q What did you see him doing that day?  
 A Oh, when he came out of the bank I didn't know at first he was a bandit, I didn't know what he was, because he was dressed up, and after he got out of the bank he went out towards the lawn, alongside the sidewalk, and I got a good look at him, he had a revolver in his hand.  
 Q Was he the man with Mr. Bolt?  
 A He was the man that struggled with Mr. Bolt and Mr. Linkens.  
 Q Is that the man you later learned was Doyle?  
 A No, it was the man I learned was Mr. Craig.  
 Q What did you see of this man you learned to be Mr. Craig, what did you see him do? A He moved, he kept moving toward Franklin Street.  
 Q Did you see him struggle with Mr. Bolt? A I just saw him at first as they come out of the door, that is all, Then everybody started running toward the bushes, Van Lopik run toward the bushes, that was the last I seen of him.  
 Q Who was struggling with Mr. Bolt? A Oh, that was Doyle, the man that they got.  
 Q The man you saw dressed up and with a straw hat, was that Mr. Doyle that you saw? A No.  
 Q The man you saw that was dressed up, with a straw hat, is that the man you now know as Mr. Craig? A Yes.  
 Q And he didn't struggle with Mr. Bolt?  
 A No; it was Doyle.  
 Q What did he do? A He moved toward Franklin Street.  
 Q Did he have anything in his hand? A He had a revolver in his hand.  
 Q See him carrying anything besides a revolver? A No.  
 Q What was the last you saw of him that day?

- Q As he moved out of the doorway I was directly across from the doorway, as he moved out; we ran out into the open and one of us got behind one car and one behind another one and then they moved toward Franklin Street, but they were half running and half walking towards the corner, that is the last I saw of him.
- Q Did you have some pictures submitted to you, to select a picture? A Yes, sir.
- Q How long after the bank robbery was it that you identified the picture? A About three weeks.
- Q And whose pictures if any did you select?
- A There were two. One of the man in the gray suit and straw hat, and a man that is slightly shorter than him, were supposed to be Ed Bentz, the short one is supposed to be Ed Bentz, and the tall one was Theodore Bentz.
- Q And have you seen any of those men since, besides Mr. Doyle? A Yes.
- Q Where did you next see one of those men?
- A In the county jail.
- Q And where in the county jail?
- A In the bull pen.
- Q And was anybody else with him? A I don't know if the other fellows were in the bull pen, taking a good look, but there were two other men in there when I went to see him.
- Q You didn't see him in the line-up? A No.
- Q Have you seen that man since that time? A Yes.
- Q When? A I was up to the jail later on, Labor Day.
- Q Did you see him since then? A Not until today.
- Q Do you see him today? A Yes.
- Q Where is he? A Sitting right there.